

Psychology 494(002)
Capstone Seminar in Judgment and Decision Making
Syllabus

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30 pm to 1:45 pm **Classroom:** FH 0306
Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Pettibone **Email:** jpettib@siue.edu **Phone:** 650-3346
Office: AH 0127
Office Hours: T & W 10 to 11 am and by appointment
SRA GAs: Katelyn Scott and Parker Light **Office Hours:** by appointment
Office: AH 0348 **Email:** psychsra@yahoo.com

Supplemental Text:

Hardman, D. (2009). Judgment and Decision Making.

Note: This textbook is optional but will be a good resource as you look for ideas for your project.

Course Objectives: There are three major objectives in this class. The first is to teach you about rational and “irrational” processes in preference formation. The second objective is to teach you how to do experimental research with human participants in Judgment and Decision Making. The third objective is to help you complete your senior assignment project in psychology. The research project that you design and implement will be presented to the faculty of the psychology department. This is your moment to shine- to show us all what you have learned and that you are ready to be a part of the larger world of psychologists!

Course Format: To accomplish these goals, the class will be divided into two parts. In the first third of the semester we will do some basic review of relevant theory followed by in depth examinations of research paradigms & results that relate to understanding preference formation. This material will come from the assigned research articles and the supplemental textbook. You must do the readings if you expect to contribute to your project. These articles should familiarize you with the way research is done in JDM and will also provide you with ideas & sources for your project. At the end of the first section of class, your group will propose a research project relating to exploring factors that should either increase or decrease dishonesty. During this section we will meet every day, have regular quizzes, and take a midterm exam on the material learned at the end of the session. The last 2/3rds of class is designed to help you work on your project- all of the rest of your grading will pertain solely to your project. You will be given time off from class during this section to meet as a group or work on your project- I expect you to use this time wisely. We will meet periodically over this time to keep you on track.

Course Paradigm: This class is a seminar- that means that it depends upon interaction between you and me. I’ll lecture sometimes, but you’ll get out of this class what you put in. If you do the readings and get excited about the material, class will be light, fun, and exciting. I intend to treat you like a peer- you’ve progressed far enough to know that you want to be here. **Reading the assigned chapters & articles is critical- they give you details that will be helpful for your project and they give you behavior to model in your own development as a psychologist.** As for my end, I’m excited that you’ve chosen this class, and I want to share my excitement with you. After the midterm, you’ve got to act like a peer to succeed in this class- that means that you’ve got to be self motivated, actively seek feedback from myself and your group, and above all else be a conscientious group member. I’ll check up on you periodically, but this is the time for you to take ownership of your own education- I am a resource, but you are your own best teacher in this class.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>
Quizzes (4):	40
Midterm Exam:	100
Project Proposal Draft (group):	10
Project Proposal (group):	25
Paper Drafts:	30
Oral Exam (group):	30
Poster Presentation (group):	65
Final Paper:	100
<hr/>	
Total:	400

Final Grade:
A: 360 to 400
B: 320 to 359
C: 280 to 319
D: 240 to 279
F: Less than 239
Note: These numbers are absolute- there will be no rounding

Quizzes: To make sure that you are reading the relevant research articles, there will be a short 10 question quiz each week that we cover course material. The questions will be simple and should be able to be answered if you have read the material and attended class. Quizzes will be conducted during the first 10 minutes of class. Quizzes will be on-line using BB. You will have 15 minutes to take the quiz and they are open note and open book, but not open internet. Note that this is not enough time to look up all the answers

unless you have studied and prepared. You will be allowed two attempts at each quiz, and your highest score will count. You are expected to take each quiz independently and not share information or answers about the quiz with other students.

Midterm Exam: The midterm will cover the content from the first 1/3 of the class. The exam will be essay and short answer based. A set of potential essay questions will be provided one class period prior to the exam. Some, but not all of the questions on the list will appear on the exam. This is your only exam, so it is very important that you prepare your answers to these questions in advance.

Project Proposal & Draft: You will complete a proposal that describes what you intend to study for your senior assignment project. This proposal needs to be complete enough information to obtain IRB approval, which means you need to know what your IV(s) and DV(s) are, who your participants will be, what you expect to find, why you are doing the study, and if there are any potential risks involved for the participants. More details will be provided in a handout. If you turn the proposal in on time and it is complete enough to go to the IRB (with minor changes, if necessary), you will receive full credit. This is a group assignment.

Paper Drafts: You will periodically turn in drafts of your final research paper. This process is intended to keep you moving on your project and to provide periodic feedback. You will receive 15 points for each complete draft you turn in on time. Incomplete drafts may receive a maximum of 5 or fewer points depending on the amount of work completed. Your draft for the references may be a group project, but all other drafts are expected to be individual assignments (i.e. DO NOT share any written or electronic information with your group mates. Verbal information and help is fine to share).

Oral Exam: To help you prepare for your senior assignment presentation, your group will meet with me outside of class and answer a handful of questions related to your project. You will be told in general what the questions are in advance so that you can be prepared. During the exam, questions will be pulled out of a hat and may be asked of any group member- thus, everyone needs to be prepared to answer all questions (just like during your poster presentation for senior assignment). This is a chance for you to practice being a peer in a research-oriented environment. This is a group assignment: all members of the group will receive the same grade.

Poster Presentation: As part of your senior assignment, you will prepare a poster to present to the faculty about your project. You will also orally present that poster. Completing the presentation satisfactorily satisfies your senior assignment requirement and marks your transition from a student into a peer! You will also receive a class grade for your poster as a group. The grade will be based only on the content and visual presentation of the poster- not on your interaction with the faculty.

Final Paper: At the end of the semester, you will turn in a full APA formatted research paper documenting your project and its results. You will receive an individual grade on this paper- all writing must be your own (no exceptions). I understand there will be some similarities in content, especially in the methods and results section, but all writing must be your own. The only way to ensure that this happens is to not work on your paper in your group. Plan your study together, collect data together, even analyze it together- but do not share your writing with others. Where group work is used, it is intended to make repetitive tasks easier- it is not intended to allow a group member to only learn 1/4th of the overall content necessary to do the project. Please do not share your writing on the final paper with your classmates to ensure that all class members learn all of the material and not just a portion of it.

CLASS POLICIES

Blackboard: I will post class information on blackboard, including course lectures and articles for you to download and read. You will need Microsoft PowerPoint to see the lectures, and Adobe Acrobat to read the articles. Lecture notes will generally be posted after a lecture. These notes are provided to help you study, rather than prevent you from taking your own notes. Having these notes should be seen as a luxury, not a right. I highly recommend you download the articles and read them before the relevant course lecture. The textbook is light and easy to read- do your readings prior to class so that you are prepared. The articles are provided to help you get ideas for your projects, as you can only see what researchers actually do by reading methods and results sections. You must read the articles in advance of each class to get the most out of the material. Do not expect my on-line notes to be adequate coverage of them.

Senior Assignment Groups: You will be assigned into groups of no more than four students on the second day of class. At the end of the semester, you will be provided an opportunity to give feedback about the relative contribution of your group members to your senior assignment project. Each individual will anonymously rate all other members of his/her team at the end of the course. Each person will assign a portion of the 100% workload to each member. So, for instance, in a team of 4, if each person contributed equally, each will be assigned 25%. If Pat is assigned a 25%, 25%, 20%, and 24% from the 4 members of the group, he will receive a 94% peer evaluation score. This score will then serve to amend his Team Grade (the sum of the points from the group projects excluding the oral exam). If the Team Grade was 60/90, then Pat will receive a team score of $60 \times .94 = 56.4$. In this way, team members will be encouraged to pull their weight. I do reserve the right to override the peer evaluation score if it appears it is being used unfairly. Also, reduced peer evaluation scores will require written justification.

Class attendance: You are expected to be on time and prepared for all classes and to stay the entire class period. Some assignments, such as quizzes, cannot be taken late without prior approval. If you miss those days, you will receive a zero for that assignment or quiz. If you miss class, you should find out what you missed from your teammates before you talk to me. I highly encourage you to

attend all classes. Given that this class depends on group work, missing a class not only hurts yourself, but it hurts the group as you will not be able to contribute to the group at the expected level. If you miss class, your grade WILL suffer, as may the grades of your group members.

Late assignments: No assignments will be accepted late without prior approval (or without sufficient evidence-based cause in the case that contact prior to missing class is impossible). Email is not suitable for prior approval- you must actually talk to me on the phone or by stopping by my office

Departmental policy on incomplete grades, pass-no pass option, and withdrawal: All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by the end of the 6th week of an 8-week summer term. When students discontinue attending class and do not withdraw from a course they may receive the grade of UW (Unauthorized Withdrawal). The grade of UW will only be given when a student's grade based on the course requirements is an F. The grade of UW is calculated as an F in a student's grade average. The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic and is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the work not later than the end of the following semester. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

Departmental policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>. It is your responsibility to make sure you thoroughly understand the nature of plagiarism. Any cases of plagiarism, whether deliberate or unintentional, will be treated the same.

Academic Honesty: If you are given an individual assignment, it must be done with no input from any other class member. In this class, this includes your paper, most of your drafts, your mid-term, and your quizzes. I encourage you to consult your college handbook for the University policy on academic honesty. For this course, ANY case of academic dishonesty (copying, cheating on an exam, plagiarism or copying on another student's paper) will receive the recommended university policy: failure of the course and reporting of the case to the Dean of Students. This penalty will be assessed for both the cheater and for any persons found liable for enabling them to cheat.

Because you are conducting research for this class, you need to refresh yourself on the concept of plagiarism (which you covered in PSY 212). It is your responsibility to make sure that everything for this class with your name on it is NOT plagiarized and is your own work (this includes any teamwork). If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, see me; ignorance is not an excuse. Any cases of plagiarism, whether deliberate or unintentional, whether a small or a large assignment, will be treated the same and will result in the penalty noted above. **It should be noted that the sharing of an electronic copy of your work with another student may be taken as grounds for plagiarism and will result in both parties receiving equal punishment.**

Statement on Disabilities: SIUE offers a range of resources to support students with disabilities. At SIUE every effort has been made to eliminate barriers to learning and help you reach your educational goals. If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services located in Rendleman Hall, Room 1218 (phone: 650-3726). In addition, I am committed to helping you achieve your highest potential in this class. If you would like to request any accommodations for this class (e.g., note-taking, special testing environments, etc.), please let me know following the first day of class.

Department of Psychology SRA Policy: All students at SIUE are required to do a Senior Assignment in order to graduate. This is the class in which you will work on this project. In order to pass the Senior Assignment requirement, you must 1) pass your Capstone course with a grade of C or better, 2) present a poster based on the project you completed in the Capstone class at the Department of Psychology's Senior Assignment Poster Session, 3) have your poster deemed acceptable by the faculty (i.e., a mean rating of 3 or above on the faculty evaluation form) and 4) fulfill any other senior assignment requirements stipulated by your professor. In the event that you do not fulfill all four requirements in a given semester, you will need to retake the Capstone course and complete all four requirements in a subsequent semester. For example, if you receive below a C in the Capstone course, even if your poster presentation is deemed acceptable by the faculty, you will fail to complete the senior assignment requirement and must retake Capstone in its entirety with a new project. If you receive a C or better in the Capstone course, but your poster presentation is deemed unacceptable by the faculty, this in most circumstances will result in having to retake Capstone in its entirety, unless the Capstone professor presents evidence to the contrary. In order to help you with this endeavor, you have several resources: your Capstone professor, the Senior Assignment Coordinator (Dr. Ro), and two Senior Assignment Graduate Assistants (Katelyn Scott and Parker Light).

This semester's Senior Assignment Poster Session will take place on **Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 from 3:00 to 4:15, with a pinning ceremony to follow from 4:15 to 4:45, in the Morris University Center (MUC) Conference Center on the 2nd floor.** **Your attendance at this event is mandatory in order to pass Senior Assignment – please plan your schedule accordingly!** In the event that a medical emergency or other extenuating circumstance (e.g., jury duty, death in the family, religious obligation) might prevent you from attending the Senior Assignment poster session, you must seek approval from your capstone instructor immediately and provide documentation. Should you miss the poster session for this reason you may be required to complete an individual makeup assignment equivalent to the poster session.

Below are important dates and deadlines for you to remember before the SRA day.

1. There will be a mandatory in-class meeting with the SRA graduate assistants during the 1st week of classes (please check your syllabus for the date). Please make every attempt to be in class on that day. Should you be absent, you **MUST** contact the SRA graduate assistants as soon as possible for an individual appointment with them to hear this information.
2. **ONE** member of your group should email the SRA GAs (psychsra@yahoo.com) by the end of the 2nd week of March (i.e., the week of March 11th) the following information.
 - a. Your Capstone professor's name
 - b. The title of your poster
 - c. The names of all other members of your group (PLEASE check spelling!)

Finally, you can reach Dr. Ro, the Senior Assignment Coordinator, at ero@siue.edu or during her office hours (Tuesdays 1 pm- 3 pm and Wednesdays 10 am – 11:30 am).

Class Schedule, Readings, and Assignments

Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
1/9	Introduction & Welcome		
1/11	Rationality/ Group Assignments / SA Intake Meeting	Fischhoff & Broomell (2020)	
1/16	Risky Decision Making & Loss Aversion	Kahneman, 2003	Quiz #1
1/18	Emotions & Decision Making	Lerner, Li, Valdesolo, & Kassam (2015)	
1/23	Preference Construction: Decoy Effects	Weber & Johnson, 2006; Simonson (1989); Pettibone (2012)	Quiz #2
1/25	Anchoring Effects & Framing Effects	Ariely, Loewenstein, & Prelec (2006)	
1/30	The Endowment Effect / Default Effect / Status Quo Biases	Chu & Shu (2022); Thaler (1980)	Quiz #3
2/1	Studying Individual Differences in Decision Making	Jackson et al. (2017); Parker & Fischhoff (2005); Scherer et al. (2016); Weber, Blais, & Betz (2002)	
2/6 & 2/8	No Class: Schedule meetings with your groups to work on your proposal		
2/13	Experimental Methods Review/Qualtrics		Quiz #4
2/15	Descriptive and Inferential Statistics Review		
2/20	No Class	Draft of References and Proposal/Methods Due	
2/22	Group meetings to discuss proposal (Schedule an individual meeting with myself and your group)		
2/27	Group meetings cont.		
2/29	<i>Mid-term Exam</i>	Final Proposal Due	
3/5-7	<i>Spring Break</i>		
3/12 & 3/14	Group Meetings to Review your methods	E-mail SRA GA w/ Title of Project & Names of Group Members Draft of Introduction & Methods Due (At meeting)	
3/19 - 3/28	Data Collection: No Class (I will hold office hours during normal class time)		
4/2 & 4/4	Computer Lab: Data Entry & Analysis		
4/9	Computer Lab: Poster Preparation	Draft of Results & Discussion Due	
4/10 to 4/12	Oral Exams (No class, but schedule an appointment with me as a group to take exam)		
4/16	Senior Assignment Day: 3:00 to 4:15, MUC		
4/18	No Class!!!! Work on your papers!		
4/23	Computer Lab: Department Assessment Test		
4/25	Wrap up and Farewell		Final Paper Due: 4/26

Note: Readings can be found on Blackboard or by searching google scholar using the author names and publication year from on campus