Psychology of Perception

Psychology 4165, Summer 2003

Laboratory 4

Perceptual Demonstrations

Lewis O. Harvey, Jr. – Instructor
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Courtney A. Rocheleau – Assistant
Room MUEN D-156, 09:15–10:50 M–F

Laboratory 4: Perceptual Demonstrations

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Laboratory 4: Perceptual Demonstrations

Introduction

The class will be divided into groups of 3 or 4 persons. Each group will pick a demonstrable perceptual phenomenon (approved by us) and carry out a project on this phenomenon throughout the remainder of the semester. At the end of the semester each group will submit a final report and make a 20 minute presentation to the rest of the class.

The group project involves these steps:

1. Pick a phenomenon. During lab meetings on 16 & 17 June 2003 you will discuss your phenomenon and get final approval from us. A good place to start looking is in the text book.

2. Review the literature on the phenomenon. This review will involve searching data bases with computer search facilities and reading relevant papers published in scientific journals. Each person will prepare a summary of their favorite paper (see below) and turn it in on 26 & 27 June 2003. This summary will be worth 20 points.

3. Each group will propose an experiment to further clarify the nature and meaning of the phenomenon. The experiment will be based on your reading and your evaluation of the previously-published experiments.

4. Predict an outcome of the proposed experiment. You do not have to carry out the experiment, but it should have a proper experimental design and analysis.

5. Each group will write a single report containing the above four elements. This report is due on 1 July 2003, before you make your verbal presentations. Each member of the group will receive the same grade out of a maximum of 40 points for the written report.

6. Make a verbal presentation to the rest of the class, demonstrating the phenomenon and explaining what it means. Each member of the group will receive the same grade out of a maximum of 20 points for the verbal presentations. The presentations will be given in lab on **1 July 2003**.

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Presentation

The type of demonstration is left up to the imagination of each group. The more interesting and creative the better. Each group will have a maximum of 20 minutes to make their presentations. This time period can be divided as follows:

1. Introduction to the demonstration: what is it and what is it supposed to illustrate. You may use PowerPoint or Keynote if you so desire.

2. The demonstration itself. It should be interesting and simple and allow for a maximum of audience participation.

3. A discussion of the basis of the perceptual phenomenon and the main point it illustrates. What implications are there for theories of perception?

4. A period of time for questions and discussion.

It requires a lot of practice and discipline to organize the presentation along these lines and to stay within the 20 minute time period. We will keep the time limit rigidly. Please organize your presentation carefully.

The grade given to your demonstration will be based on the quality of the demonstration and the clarity with which you present the items listed above. Each group will turn in a single report. All members of a group will receive the same grade. It is your responsibility to get all members of your group to participate equally and/or fairly.

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Individual Article Evaluation

As part of working on your group project you have located a journal article that is of interest to you. For this assignment you will write a report summarizing and evaluating this article. Please answer the following questions about the article:

1. What problem were the authors studying and what question were they trying to answer?
2. What were the independent and dependent variables in their research design?
3. What was the experimental hypothesis and what was the null hypothesis?
4. What methods were used to test the hypothesis? Summarize information about the participants, materials, and design
5. What results did the authors report and what conclusions did they draw?
6. What is your own evaluation? Are their conclusions justified from what they did and what they found? What weaknesses can you identify that weaken their conclusions?
7. Why are these results important?

Report

Your lab report should be brief but contain the following four parts:

1. Title Page;
2. Two to three page summary answering the questions given above;
3. Any bibliographic references that are appropriate, in APA format;
4. An appendix containing a photocopy of the article's abstract and the complete reference to the article.

This lab report is due on **Wednesday or Thursday, 25 and 26 of June 2003**. It should be typed or printed from a word processor. It is worth 20 points.