Psychology 3BL3
Laboratory in Human Electrophysiology
Course Outline

Dr. L.E. Roberts

Scheduled Hours

Tuesday 11:30-12:20
Thursday 11:30-13:20

Guest Lecturer

Dr. Daniel Bosnyak

Course Assistants

Fil Cortese
Dave Thompson

Room 311 Psychology Building

Course Content and Objective

The objective of the course is to give students experience at posing questions about auditory perception and answering them through laboratory experiments. This year we will focus on the question of plasticity in the auditory system. However, many aspects of the problem solving experience gained in the course will be transferable to other domains of investigation.

We will conduct an experiment in which we collect behavioral data and measure brain activity using the electroencephalogram (EEG). Students will analyze both types of data and prepare a written report of the results.

Plan for Lectures and labs

There will be a lecture every Tuesday at 11:30. Thursdays will be handled as follows. There are 15 students registered in the course. We will divide into five teams of three students each. Each team will be scheduled for a weekly two-hour lab at a time to be determined at our first meeting on September 4th. These labs will replace the Thursday time slot; however, that slot should be reserved by all students for group meetings later in the course. Thursday meetings, if needed, will be announced at the Tuesday lectures.

Psychology 3BL3 is being offered for the first time in the 2003-2004 academic year. We will occupy laboratory space that is under renovation (almost complete) and work with a new 128 channel EEG system. Everyone including those conducting the course is on a steep learning curve. However, you will be working with state-of-the-art equipment. We will begin in the first three weeks with EEG training sessions. Then data collection will begin. The topics of Tuesday lectures will be developed as we go, to meet current need.

Evaluation of Students

Evaluation of students will be based on their written report of the experiment due Tuesday December 2nd. This report will determine 67% of the course grade. The remaining 33% will be determined by three short quizzes, which will be announced with a minimum of one weeks notice. The lowest quiz grade will be deleted before averaging. There is no December final examination for Psychology 3BL3.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust course marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course. The instructor also reserves the right to adjust course format if necessitated by extenuating circumstances.

Assigned Readings and Office Hours

Because a suitable textbook is not available, selected readings will be assigned in class. One copy of each assigned reading will be distributed to each laboratory team. Office hours and email addresses will be given in class.