PSY 717 COGNITIVE METHODS

Course and Instructor Information

Semester: Fall 2021
Day/Time: Thursday 10 AM – 12:45 PM
Location: CBC B425B

Instructor: David Copeland, Ph.D.
Email: david.copeland@unlv.edu
Office: CBC B441
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Course Overview

The primary goal of this course is for students to gain exposure and to learn how to apply research methods that are commonly used by cognitive psychologists. The course will examine basic methods and techniques that are applicable to cognitive research, including response times, working memory measures, eye tracking, event-related potentials, virtual reality, surveys and scales, and transcranial magnetic stimulation.

We will also discuss different perspectives on issues such as sampling and recruiting diverse participants, how qualitative methods can complement quantitative methods, different approaches to data trimming, studying behavior compared to self-reports, and the importance of pilot studies. Finally, the course will conclude with an evaluation of these different methods where we will tackle questions such as, "What is our role as researchers within the field of psychology?" and "Should research be guided by the methods that people have available to them?"

The class will be based on a combination of discussions, short lectures, and demonstrations. It is recommended that students do their part to enhance learning – read critically before class, add to discussions, and to ask questions when concepts are not clear.