NACS642 Spring 2017 Group Project

For the group project, the class will be divided into small groups, each of which will implement an MEG experiment. The goal is to give you hands-on experience with a cognitive neuroscience technique and to think about how the results of different techniques relate to each other. Groups will form early in the semester so that you have lots of time (~six weeks) to explore and discuss different ideas before writing up the proposal.

You are free to design whatever kind of paradigm you wish. However, if your group does not want to spend the time and energy to develop your own stimulus presentation scripts, you may choose to design a paradigm that involves the visual presentation of text. In this case, you will be able to use existing stimulus presentation scripts from Dr. Lau’s lab, with your own set of materials (if your paradigm involves simple sequential presentation of images, it may be possible to adapt those existing scripts to that purpose as well). Your paradigm will ideally be no longer than about 30-40 minutes.

You will run volunteers from among yourselves, and we are not planning to publish the data or otherwise use it for science, so IRB approval is not needed for data collection.

GROUP PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Group project proposals** Due 3/10
The project proposal does not need to be long, but it should include a definition of the problem to be examined, a literature review section, a materials section, a procedure section, and an analysis section. I suggest dividing the literature review across the whole group, so that everyone is responsible for summarizing one or two papers.

**Scheduling participants** Due 3/27
Since all the facilities can be difficult to book, make sure requests are submitted by 3/27.

**Presentation scripts and materials**
A pre-test version of your scripts and materials is due 3/31; finalized (tested) version is due 4/7. Tested means tested in the facility

**Data collection**
At the latest, should happen between 4/11 and 4/20. Raw data is due by 4/21.
Class presentations  
Due 5/11
Should include all of the same sections as the proposal, plus results and commentary on the strengths and weaknesses of this method for answering your questions of interest.

At the end of the semester, you will each be asked to evaluate your own contributions to the project and the contributions of the other members of your group.