# First year psychology lab classes: lecturer’s notes

## License

These lab classes were developed at the University of Nottingham as part of the first year course in BSc (Hons) Psychology, with support from the Higher Education Association Psychology Network (HEA-PN). The materials provided here may be distributed freely, but please acknowledge the University of Nottingham and the HEA if you use them.

## About this class

This class is much more free-form than the preceding classes, the idea being to give the students more of a taste of designing their own study. Because it is much more free it will require more individual support and so it takes two weeks instead of one and requires greater input from the TAs on the course.

## Learning objectives for this class

* Designing a study of your own
* You can run studies without special software (pen and paper!)

## Structure

Session 1:

* Hear about some theories and potential experiments of memory
* Begin to create your own experiment and run it (potentially during the intervening week) on a few subjects

Session 2 (no talks – individual discussions about data analysis):

* Analyse the data

## Slides pt 1

Explaining some of the concepts of memory studies including some examples.

Ideas for studies:

* Learning some name-face associations with or without a mnemonic in PsychoPy experiment. An example is provided which could be provided as a template. Could vary delay between learn/recall sessions or the type of mnemonic given
* Memorising data that has a structure. Create bitmaps (in some drawing package) of words that do or don’t have a structure. Present them in a counterbalanced way to subjects and see whether they learn more about the structured info than the simple list. (e.g. see Bower et al 1969)
* Learning lists of words in two different environments and then recalling in the same/diff environments (e.g. see Godden and Baddeley, 1975). Do this by pen/paper.