PURPOSE OF THE LAB.
Why do people make errors? How do people interact with robots? We collect data on how and why people make errors and how they interact with robots. We then build theoretical models of people making errors and people interacting with robots, not only so that we can understand people, but also so that we can help prevent errors and help people interact with robots better. Our theories are instantiated in ways that make predictions of what people will do in the future, and this information can then be used to change people's behavior.

The Predicting Cognition Lab coordinates the efforts of undergraduate students, graduate students, post-docs, and faculty to investigate cognitive science. Each student is in charge of collecting data for a study that can cover a wide range of topics. The number of studies run each semester is time permitting.

WHY JOIN THE PREDICTING COGNITION LAB.
You will work closely with me (Dr. Trafton) and the lab members. I will get to know you better and observe your abilities outside of the classroom. Therefore, I can write more complete reference letters for your future grad school, professional school, or job applications.

1) You will learn some basic research skills. This knowledge will be very valuable if you plan to attend graduate school. Working in teams and having responsibility is also valuable training for the general workforce.
2) You will learn about psychology and cognitive science, and you may decide that you want to pursue it for a career.
   a. You get course credit!
      PSYC 460: Independent Study (available for all students)
   b. Honors Thesis satisfies one of the Honors Program requirements. Check with your advisor.
3) Lab students have been accepted to many graduate programs, medical schools, awarded scholarships and other honors. Work in the lab enhances an application for these awards and honors.

HOW DO YOU APPLY.
1) In order to be considered for a seat in the course, you should submit a completed application. Application is attached, complete it, save it using your last name in the filename (e.g., Smith Predicting Cognition Lab Application) and email your application
and transcript to (kzish@gmu.edu) as an attachment. I use the information in this document to determine whether the Predicting Cognition Lab can provide the experience that you are seeking—so provide detail, but be concise.

2) **Applications are accepted at any time during the semester.** However, open seats in the course are allocated as students successfully complete the application process. So, an early application ensures full consideration. I will review all applications and begin to select students for group interviews with me. Students of all interests in psychology are welcome.

3) After the interview process, I will offer seats to students who are a good fit with the Predicting Cognition Lab experience. When students accept these offers, I will register him or her for the course.

This process continues until all open seats for the next semester have been filled.

**WHO CAN APPLY:**

Basic qualifications that are required to be considered for the lab:
1. Must be a GMU student
2. Must successfully complete the application process
3. Must submit a current transcript
4. Must be sophomore status or above
5. Must have above a 3.0 GPA

**WHAT TO EXPECT.**

Time Commitment:
Lab members are expected to devote at least 10 hours per week. A typical lab session often runs for 1 hour. We also have a 1 hour lab meeting every Wednesday to check-in and discuss data and results.

Lab Training:
Students do not need experience to participate in this lab—they will be trained on every task. We have a training system that allows lab members to gain responsibility in the lab as they gain experience. Under this system, students have a choice of how much responsibility they wish to have and to determine the pace that they want to learn.

Final Project:
At the end of every semester students are taught how to analyze the data they collected over the semester. They will then provide a short presentation to the lab on the background, method, results, and conclusions of the project they were assigned. Additionally you will submit a paper in APA format that expands your presentation.