First Experiment Due: Lecture #7

What does a team experiment in 9.63 involve?

A 9.63 experiment involves the following basic steps:

1. Literature search to determine what has been done on similar topics in the past and what open issues remain to be addressed.

Please include a summary of the research in your presentation and in your paper, but make sure to do this search BEFORE conducting your experiment so that you can learn from others' mistakes and so that you don't replicate what's already been done.

2. Experimental design - outlining the precise aim of the experiment and figuring out how the experiment will be run. Will likely involve collecting stimulus sets and possibly writing a simple computer program to present stimuli to subjects.

Be creative here. You don't have a lot of time, so if no one on your team has programming experience, you should try an old-fashioned method of collecting data. If you do want to use computers, there is a Mac lab available.
These Macs have some tools that may be useful to you (Excel for data analysis, etc.).

3. Running experiments with subjects and analyzing the collected data to test for basic trends and statistical significance. We will have a class or two on this topic.

4. Writing the report (about 8-10 pages long, double spaced text) and preparing a 10-minute presentation.

A good way for team members to divide up the work is to take the lead on one of the four tasks above. Of course, each task will involve collaboration across the entire team, but it can be spearheaded by one student.

The descriptions of the experiments in class were extremely brief. In order to find out more about the topics, and to get advice on any of the steps involved in conducting the experiment, please get in touch with the TAs.