

# SYLLABUS

## Cognition

### 1. General Information

#### 1.1 Catalog Details:

Psy 435 / Psy 535 Classes meet: 8:00-9:20am UH 146 Straub

#### 1.2 Instructor:

Ray Hyman, 323 Straub, 346-4910.  
Office Hours: M 2:00-3:30pm/ F 1:00-2:30pm

#### 1.3 Textbook:

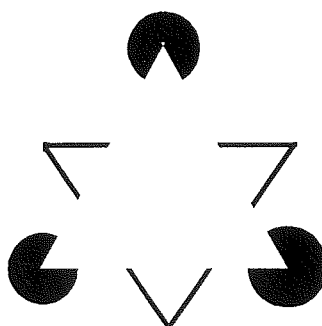
Medin, D.L., & Ross, B.H. (1992).  
Cognitive Psychology. NY: Harcourt  
Brace Jovanovich.

#### 1.4 Examinations:

**MIDTERM: Nov 3, 1992**  
**FINAL: Dec 17, 1992 @ 8:00am.**

#### 1.5 Term Paper:

The term paper is due on **Tuesday, Dec 10, 1992**. Papers handed in after this deadline will either be marked down or not accepted.



Subjective Contours

## Topics & Assignments

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lectures</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
OVERVIEW			
1	Sep 29, Oct 1	Basic Themes, Overview, History	Ch 1, Ch 2
ACQUIRING INFORMATION			
2	Oct 6, 8	Signal Detection, Learning	Ch 3
3	Oct 13, 15	Mnemonics, Attention, Perception	Ch 4, Ch 5
MEMORY			
4	Oct 20, 22	Ebbinghaus, Bartlett Imagery, Memory	Ch 6, Ch 7
5	Oct 27, 29	Representation	Ch 8
Nov 3	<u>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</u>		
UNDERSTANDING			
6	Nov 4	The Psychic Reading	
7	Nov 10, 12	Language, Language Acquisition	Ch 9, Ch 10
8	Nov 17, 19	Comprehension, Concepts	Ch 11, Ch 12
THINKING			
9	Nov 24	Selection Task, Judgment, Reasoning	Ch 13, Ch 14
10	Dec 1, 3	Monty Hall, Problem Solving	Ch 15
11	Dec 8, 10	GPS, Expertise, Creativity	<u>Term paper due Dec 10</u> Ch 16, Ch 17
Dec 17	FINAL EXAMINATION, Thursday, 8:00- 10:00 a.m.		Bring #2 pencils and blue books

# YOU AND YOUR GRADE

## 1. Points and Letter Grades

You can earn a total of 250 points in this course. The Midterm is worth up to 50 points; the Final Examination is worth up to 100 points; and the term paper is worth up to 100 points. Those of you who are dissatisfied with your grade on the Midterm will be allowed to submit a rewritten version within one week of the day the examinations are returned. The purpose of the rewrite is to make sure that you know what is expected of you. The rewrite will also allow you to improve your grade.

I do not grade on a curve. Instead, I try to set standards which a student has to meet to get a letter grade. As a rough guideline, you would need to get 212 or more points to earn an A; 188 to 211 points to earn a B; 162 to 187 points to earn a C; and 138 to 161 points to earn a D. This a rough guideline because I make adjustments based on the difficulty of the examinations and other unanticipated factors.

## 2. The Term Paper

You have to submit a term paper to pass the course. The term paper provides you another opportunity to show what you have learned in *this course*. Your task is to choose one of the four broad subheadings of this course: *ACQUIRING INFORMATION, MEMORY, UNDERSTANDING, or THINKING*. You would then write an integrative essay about this subtopic using both examples and basic themes from the lectures and the textbook. You may consult one or more outside references, but it is not necessary. Because the subject matter of this course overlaps with several other courses, you may feel tempted to submit a paper you have used in one of these other courses. I do not object to your using material from other courses provided that your paper *explicitly deals with examples, principles, and issues that were central to the present course*. We will give no credit for a paper, no matter how otherwise good, that does not clearly use examples and materials from the present course.

How long should your paper be? Over the past three years, the typical paper has averaged 8 to 9 pages in length. The range has been from four to 20 pages. Generally, papers shorter than 5 pages have received rather low grades. Some excellent papers have been as short as 7 pages, but most of the better grades have gone to papers over 10 pages in length.

## 3. The Examinations

The examinations will be half multiple-choice and half essay in format. You will be given some choice in the essays. The coverage is equally on the text and the lectures.

