

**COGNITION (PSY 435/535)**  
University of Oregon - Spring 1998

Mon-Wed-Fri 1:00-1:50    146 STRAUB HALL 4 Credits; CRN for 435: <b>34899</b> CRN for 535: <b>34912</b> Class WEB Page: <a href="http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~pavese/COG435/">http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~pavese/COG435/</a>	Instructor:    Antonella Pavese, Ph. D. Office:        226 Straub Hall e-mail:        pavese@darkwing.uoregon.edu Phone:         346-4940 Office Hours: 2:00-3:00 Mon-Fri
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## Overview

The purpose of this course is to provide a basic understanding of cognitive psychology. Cognitive psychology is the study of mental processes that underlie functions such as perception, memory, attention, language, and reasoning. We will also examine how modern cognitive neuroscience investigates the relationship between brain and mental processes. In particular, we will review empirical evidence and critically evaluate the relationship between experimental data and theories of cognitive processes. Several guest lectures will provide more detailed information on particular topics in cognition.

## Course requirements

The course requirements include doing the reading, attending the class, attending the guest lectures, participating in class discussions, and taking the examinations.

### Required readings

Each week there will be reading assigned from the textbook. Readings are to be completed **BEFORE** the Monday class meeting for which they are assigned. The recommended textbook is:

- Payne, D. G. & Wenger, M. J. (1998), *Cognitive Psychology*, Houghton Mifflin.

Additional readings will be added during the course.

### Guest lectures

Almost every week there will be a guest lecture. Participation at guest lectures is mandatory. Each guest lecture will be considered part of the "reading" and you will be required to write a short abstract that summarize the main points of the lecture. At least one of the questions in the quizzes will be on material from the guest lecture.

### Grading

Your grade will be computed by combining your scores in the following overall categories for a total of 270 points:

Quizzes (total of 5 20 points scores)	100
Abstracts (total of 7 10 points scores)	70
Paper	50
Take-home final	40
Extra credit potentials	20
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280</b>

Final letter grades will be approximately determined from point totals as follows:

250-280	A
220-249	B
190-219	C
160-189	D
Below 160	F

Based on the actual distribution of final grades, this criterion might be relaxed, but not stiffened. Plusses and minus will be used for performance near the edge of a range.

## **Additional notes**

### **More about grades and requirements**

#### **QUIZZES — 100 POINTS**

Five quizzes will be given. Each quiz is worth 20 points. The quizzes will be structured to assess your knowledge of the readings, class discussions and guest lectures. Each quiz will consist of 5 short-answer questions. Typically, two questions will pertain to the textbook readings, two questions to the class discussions, lectures and/or demonstrations, and one question to the guest lecture. You will be graded on your knowledge, synthesis of the ideas, and also the clarity with which you present your ideas in the examination. You should try to be concise and avoid long and wordy answers. You will have good grades if you read the assigned chapters in the textbook AND if you come to class.

#### **ABSTRACTS — 70 POINTS**

The guest lectures are a very important part of this course. Presence to the guest lectures is mandatory. After each lecture you are required to write an abstract. The abstract must be short (not more than 1000 words) and can be written using your notes from the class. More information on how to write a good abstract can be found in fourth edition of the APA Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (for example, pp. 8-11). Your effort should concentrate in trying to understand the main points of the lecture, organize them in a logical way and give a brief evaluation of the lecture. The last 10 minutes of the lecture will be reserved for questions. It is very important to ask questions during this period. Make sure that you understand everything and ask questions to clarify difficult points. If you miss a guest lecture, you can come to my office and we can arrange a make-up assignment. For the third abstract, you will be required to find a journal article on applications of cognitive psychology and to write a short summary of the article.

#### **PAPER — 50 POINTS**

You are required to write a paper for this class. The paper should be more than 5 pages and less than 10 pages long and must contain at least 4 references. The focus of the paper must be a review of experimental data on a topic of your choice that is related to cognitive psychology. The paper should follow the basic American Psychological Association (APA) style for a review paper or a research report. That means that there should be an abstract, introduction to the issues, justification of the importance of the proposed topic, a review of the literature, conclusions and a bibliography. By the fourth week of the class you are required to prepare an outline of the paper and a the reference list. The paper is due by Friday of the eighth week. Extra credits may be gained returning the paper before the deadline and/or if the paper suggests a possible experiment to test the hypotheses that you will report.

### **FINAL — 40 POINTS**

The take-home final will consist of essay questions on the main topics of the course. The text of the final will be given during the last day of class. The final is due by noon of Wednesday, June 10th.

### **EXTRA CREDITS — UP TO 20 POINTS**

Extra credits can be earned in a variety of ways. If you make especially valuable contribution to class or on-line discussion you may earn extra points. If you do something creative, special, and above-and-beyond the course requirements you may earn extra points. If you return your requirements before the designed deadline you may earn extra-credits (but you will lose credit if your assignments are late).

### **Last week of class**

Last week of class (June 1st-June 5th) will be used to summarize and clarify the topic discussed in the course in preparation for the final exam. Your contribution during this week is particularly important. You will be asked to prepare questions and to contribute to the discussion. Participation to this classes is very important and your contribution to the discussion will be evaluated and will be part of your grade.

### **E-mail List**

The course will have a mailing list. It is essential that you get an e-mail account immediately if you do not have one. I will use the e-mail to send the overheads used during class, study questions or other important communications for the class. The e-mail list will also be used for on-line discussion sessions. Undergraduate students at the UO can get free accounts on the server "gladstone" and use the "Pine" e-mail system. For instruction on how to get a gladstone account and use Pine, see the Computing Center publication "Getting Started on Gladstone", available from the Computing center room.

By the second week of class you should subscribe to this mailing list by sending an e-mail message from your e-mail account to the program that manage the list, i.e. to "majordomo@lists.uoregon.edu". In that e-mail message, leave the "Subject" line blank, and in the body of the message include two lines: "subscribe COG435" and "end".

PINE 3.91      COMPOSE MESSAGE

Folder: INBOX 0 MESSAGE

To : majordomo@lists.uoregon.edu

Cc :

Attchmnt:

Subject :

----- Message Text -----

subscribe COG435

end

### **Students with disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodation in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability [Counselor for Students with Disabilities: Hillary Gerdes, 346-3211, TTY 346-1083]

## Weekly schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

(Additional small assignments may be added)

### WEEK 1: Overview and Methods

*Readings: Chapter 1*

- Mon, March 30th: Syllabus and Introduction
- Wed, April 1st, GUEST LECTURE  
(1) DIEGO FERNANDEZ DUQUE (Metaphors and Cognitive Science)
- Friday, April 3rd: Methods in Cognitive Psychology, Abstract 1 Due

### WEEK 2: Methods in Cognitive Neurosciences

*Readings: Chapters 2 and 3*

- Mon, April 6th: GUEST LECTURE  
(2) MICHAEL POSNER (Methods in Cognitive Neurosciences)
- Wed, April 8th: Quiz 1
- Fri, April 10th : Cognitive Codes  
Abstract 2 Due

### WEEK 3: Perception, Object Recognition

*Readings: Chapter 4*

*Paper on Applications of Cognitive Psychology*

- Mon, April 13th: Stimulus detection
- Wed, April 15th: Perception
- Fri, April 17th: Object recognition  
Quiz 2

### WEEK 4: Attention

*Readings: Chapter 5*

- Mon, April 20th: Spatial Attention.  
Abstract 3 Due
- Wed, April 22th: Selective Attention
- Fri, April 24th: GUEST LECTURE  
(4) SCOTT DORAN (Sleep and Cognition)  
Inhibition Mechanisms  
Paper: Reference List and Outline due

### WEEK 5: Inhibition and Cognition

*Readings: to be announced*

- Mon, April 27th: Inhibition and Cognitive Deficits, Abstract 4 Due
- Wed, April 29th: Executive Functions  
Quiz 3
- Fri, May 1st, GUEST LECTURE  
(5) MICHAEL ANDERSON (Memory retrieval and inhibition)

### WEEK 6: Short Term Memory

*Readings: Chapter 6*

- Mon, May 4th: Working Memory  
Abstract 5 Due
- Wed, May 6th:
- Fri, May 8th, GUEST LECTURE  
(6a) JENNIFER FREYD (False memory and traumatic memory)

### WEEK 7: Long Term Memory

*Readings: Chapters 7, 8*

- Mon, May 11th: Episodic memory
- Wed, May 13th: Semantic Memory  
Quiz 4
- Fri, May 15th  
(6b) JENNIFER FREYD (False memory and traumatic memory)

### WEEK 8 - Language

*Readings: Chapters 9 and 10*

- Mon, May 18th: Language production  
Abstract 6 Due
- Wed, May 20th: Language comprehension
- Fri, May 22th, GUEST LECTURE  
(7) HELEN NEVILLE (Language and brain plasticity)  
Paper due

### WEEK 9 - Aging, Decision Making

*Readings: Chapters 11, 12*

- Mon, May 25th: Holiday
- Wed, May 27th: Aging and Cognition  
Abstract 7 Due
- Fri, May 29th: Decision making  
Quiz 5

### WEEK 10 - Summary

- Mon, June 1st: Perception and Attention
- Wed, June, 3rd: Memory
- Fri, June 5th: Language and Reasoning  
Take-home final

The take-home final is due by  
Wednesday, June 10th at noon.