

Psychology 435: Cognition Summer 2002

When: MUWT 2:00-4:00
Where: 30 Pacific
Website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>

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Textbook (required): Essential Cognitive Psychology
Author: Alan J. Parkin
Publishers: The Taylor & Francis Group

Course Objectives: This course will examine the mental processes that allow us to make sense of and interact with our surrounding environment. Psychologists address the problem of consciousness by observing our capacities as information processors in capturing the outside world and representing it as a mental construct. The focus of this course will be on issues that are central to this line of questioning, including sensation and perception, attention, memory, and language.

Course Evaluation: Course grades will be based on 4 weekly quizzes and a final presentation. All four quizzes, are weighted equally (50 points each) for a total of 200 points possible on quizzes. See below for more information on the final presentation.

Quizzes: Quizzes will given each Thursday and will be taken from both class discussion and chapter readings in the text. Most of the information covered in class will have a basis in the text, however, the information presented in class will elaborate on the book and students are responsible for material covered in both. The quizzes will involve multiple choice, and short answer questions.

Final Presentation: The final presentation will allow you to investigate a topic of interest in greater detail and present your findings to the class. As a class we will form groups of 4, with each group selecting a topic that they will investigate. Example topics include presenting the scientific evidence for “False Memories” or a cognitive perspective on “Creativity”. More example topics will be distributed to the class, however your group is welcome to come up with your own and check with either Rick or Girin for approval. Students will find research from journal articles and other resources in order to present the current understanding of their topic to our class for approximately 20 minutes. Groups must use visuals of some sort such as overheads, PowerPoint slides, or a poster. Grading of the final presentation will be as follows: 80 points individual effort, 20 points group effort. Presentations should be approximately 20

minutes per group. More information to follow.

Grade Breakdown:

Quizzes	180 points
Presentation	100 points
Total	280 points (see below for extra credit options)

Percentage cutoffs:

A+ = 100 and above; A = 94-97; A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62

Failure = below 60

Extra Credit: Students may participate in up to 4 experiments for extra credit. Students may register for the experiments at the sign up boards located on the first floor of Straub Hall. Each credit hour is worth 5 points. Thus you may increase your overall grade by 20 points (6.66%) of your final grade! **IMPORTANT:** The experimenter will issue you a credit slip. **HOLD ONTO THE SLIPS!!!** You will be asked to turn them in the last day of class.

Schedule:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Reading:</u>
Mon. 7/22	Introduction; History of Cognitive Psychology	Ch. 1
Tue. 7/23	Biological Foundations of Cognition	Ch. 1, TBA
Wed. 7/24	Perception: Visual	Ch. 2
Thu. 7/25	Perception: Visual II; Quiz1	
Mon. 7/29	Perception: Auditory	
Tue. 7/30	Attention	Ch. 3
Wed. 7/31	Memory: Short-term	Ch. 4, Ch. 6
Thu. 8/1	Memory: Long-term; Quiz2	Ch. 5, Ch. 6
Mon. 8/5	Memory (cont.) and Amnesia Presentation Proposal due	Ch. 6, Ch. 7
Tue. 8/6	Knowledge & Categorization/Mental Imagery	Ch. 8; Ch. 9
Wed. 8/7	Language	Chps. 10, 12, 13
Thu. 8/8	Memory: Remembering & Forgetting (Guest Lecture) Quiz3	Ch. 7; Levy '02
Mon. 8/12	Problem Solving & Creativity/Cognitive Development	Ch. 15
Tue. 8/13	<i>Presentations</i>	
Wed. 8/14	<i>Presentations</i>	
Thu. 8/15	Quiz4	