

Cognition 435/535

Fall 2007

Tues/Thurs 10:00-11:20 PM
142 Straub Hall

Instructor: Catrin Rode
Email: crode@uoregon.edu
Office: STB326
Office Hours: Thurs. 9:00-10:00
and by appt.

Graduate Teaching Fellow: Seihwan Oh
Email: soh5@uoregon.edu
Office: STB 335 (phone: 346-2921)
Office Hours: Tues. 1:00-2:00
and by appt.

Class Blackboard site: There will be a blackboard website developed for this class. You should be able to find it by going to the following address: blackboard.uoregon.edu. You will need a username and password to access this website. This information should have already arrived in your email. If you are having any difficulties using this site, there are personnel who can help you in the Knight Library ITC (Information Technology Center) as well as the Science Library.

Textbook: *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind, 3rd Edition* by Daniel Reisberg. Norton Publishing Company, 2005. This book is optional. Everything relevant will be covered in class and powerpoint handouts will be posted on the Blackboard site. Two book copies will be available in the library.

Examinations: There will be three midterms and no final exam. The three midterm exams will be worth a total of 75% of your final grade. The specific details of the term paper assignment (length, topic, and due date) will be announced within the first two weeks of the course. Exams and term paper will be weighted as follows:

midterm 1: 25%
midterm 2: 30%
midterm 3: 20%
term paper: 25%

Course Evaluation: Exams will be based on material covered in the lectures and the book may be an additional learning aid, but is not mandatory. You will need to attend lectures in order to do well in the course.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (Text adopted here as recommended from the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct>).

Tentative Course Schedule

Sep 25, Sep 27	History, Methods of Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 1
Oct 2, Oct 4	Object Perception	Chapter 3
Oct 9, Oct 11	Selective Attention (early vs. late selection)	Chapter 4
Oct 16	1st MIDTERM	
Oct 18	Selective Attention (<i>how</i> is information selected?)	Chapter 4
Oct 23	Divided Attention (doing two things at once)	Chapter 4
Oct 25	Distinguishing Multiple Memory Systems	Chapter 5
Oct 30, Nov 1	Acquisition and Retrieval of Long Term Memories	Chapter 6
Nov 6	Memory Errors	Chapter 7
Nov 8	2nd MIDTERM	
Nov 13	Visual Imagery (Term Paper due at 5 pm)	Chapter 11
Nov 15	Concepts and Generic Knowledge	Chapter 9
Nov 20, Nov 22	Judgment & Decisions	Chapter 12
Nov 27	Reasoning (Deductive and Inductive)	Chapter 13
Nov 29	3rd MIDTERM	

Posting of Grades: Scores will be posted on blackboard throughout the course. Please do not wait until after final grades are submitted to dispute a grade; keep track of your scores as they are posted, and alert the instructor **in writing** (e-mail is fine) if you think that there has been a mistake in grading.

In-class exams: Exams will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams will be closed book. More information on the exams will also be given in class as their scheduled day approaches. Exams are not cumulative; however, general principles and definitions discussed during the first few weeks will be relevant throughout the course. Thus, understanding key concepts introduced early on will be required to do well on all exams.

Missing Exams: Exams may be made up if you have appropriate documentation indicating that you were unable to attend class (e.g., a doctor's note). However, in order to make up any exam, you must contact a TA by e-mail or phone **within one day** (except in extreme circumstances) of the missed exam. If you do not contact a TA within one day of the missed exam, you will not be able to make up that exam.

The psychology office closes at 5:00 pm sharp. The receptionist strongly recommends handing in your paper by 4:00 pm. Often in large classes such as this, there will be a rush of people waiting to turn in their paper at 5, which means that there are often delays of 15 minutes or longer. *The receptionist **will not** keep the office open after 5:00 pm, which means that if you wait until 4:45 to turn in your paper and there is a line, you may not get your paper in on time!!!*

STAPLE YOUR PAPER! (no paperclips or folders, please).

Do not directly reference “the book” or “the lecture.” Avoid using any language that assumes the reader participated in the course. Your paper should be written such that a stranger on the street could pick it up and understand it. If there is relevant material in the book or lecture, be sure to reference it in a way that would enable anyone to locate that information. (See an APA style manual for more information on proper referencing.)

If you have any comments or questions regarding the grading rubric or other concerns regarding the paper they should be addressed to the GTFs, either by email or in-person during office hours.

Extra Help is Available: If you are not getting the grade you would like, in addition to speaking with the instructors, you may contact Academic Learning Services (<http://als.uoregon.edu/>) for assistance. They offer services aimed at increasing student performance by teaching effective studying habits and providing tutors to help with paper-writing. This is a particularly valuable resource for students who are having difficulty with any aspect (e.g., grammar, organization, APA style, etc.) of writing the papers for the course.

Students with Directory Restricted Access: This course includes required on-line participation that will involve use of electronic mail. If you have restricted access to your directory information and wish to have special arrangements made for this course, please notify an instructor immediately.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with an instructor soon. It would be wise to contact Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall, 346-1155). Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability by contacting the counselor: Molly Sirois, 346-3211, 164 Oregon Hall, 346-1073, sirois@uoregon.edu

Academic Honesty: You may be required to submit writing assignments to SafeAssign. SafeAssign is a software tool designed to help students avoid plagiarism and improper citation. The software encourages original writing and proper citation by cross-referencing submitted materials with an archived database of websites, essays, journal articles, and other published work. The instructor may in some cases also submit your work to SafeAssign or some other plagiarism analysis and detection program. By enrolling in this course you grant the instructor permission to do so. Students are strongly encouraged to speak with their instructor or TA if they have any questions related to this topic, *before* submitting the relevant assignment.

The consequences of academic dishonesty are published each quarter in the Schedule of Classes and will include case-appropriate academic sanctions, up to and including automatic failure of the course and referral to the Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

How to Prevent Computer Problems

Computer problems are not allowed as an excuse for late submissions of assignments in this course. Because of the availability of computers in campus labs (library, EMU, etc.), you are expected to submit assignments printed clearly and on time. Your greatest insurance policy against computer problems is to avoid completing your work at the last minute. If you save finishing a paper with only moments to spare, you are out of backup options if something goes wrong. If, for some reason, you have tried *everything* and you are still stuck, contact the instructor **BEFORE** the deadline. Some steps (this is not an exhaustive list) you can take to eliminate the possibility of a computer mishap causing your assignment to be late are as follows:

1. ***“I lost my file.”*** Save your work every 5 minutes. Find the autosave function in your word processing program and set it to automatically save your document every 3 minutes or so. This way, your recovered document will not be more than 3 minutes of re-doing away. Always back your work up (frequently) on a disk or electronically by a) storing on a remote server (go to Computing Help Center to learn how to do this) or b) sending files to yourself by email attachment.
2. ***“My printer jammed” OR “I ran out of toner”*** First – Allow at least a half-day in advance to print your paper (while a computer lab is open). Have a backup plan for printing your document. By sending your file to yourself by email, you can pick it up on a school computer and print in a computer lab. While expensive, Kinko’s is a 24-hour option for printing documents. Make arrangements with a friend, family member, or neighbor for getting help with printing. Ask them in advance: “If I were to have computer problems, would it be okay if I came over and used your printer? Is 2:30 in the morning okay with you? You could do the same at my house.” Have a second toner cartridge on hand if you haven’t changed yours recently.
3. ***“Something happened to my computer and I don’t know how to fix it.” “My computer crashed.”*** Allow at least a half-day while computer labs are open to finish your work. Computer lab staff can help you if something breaks down. If you work at home, go to the computer help desk when you’re on campus to ask questions about functions on your computer you don’t understand. If you are unfamiliar with computers, make arrangements to work in a lab until you understand your home system better. (And, see #1 & #2).