COGNITION (PSY 435) Summer 2011 – SYLLABUS University of Oregon

Instructor: *Dr. Jagdeep Kaur-Bala* 213A(*door 217!*) Heustis Hall 346-4903 iagdeep@uoregon.edu Classroom: *115 Lawrence Hall* Time: **2:00pm–3:50am MTWR**

Office Hours: 12:30pm -1:30pm Tuesday/Thursday (& by appointment)

Course website: <u>http://blackboard.uoregon.edu</u> This site will provide supplemental information for the course (course outline, grades, copies of class notes, assignments,etc.). It is in your best interest to check for updates frequently and stay connected.

General Course Description: Our brain holds a lifetime of learning, memories, emotions, thoughts and desires. In this course, we will discuss issues in cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience, interdisciplinary fields of study attempting to answer complex questions about the functions of our minds (and brains) - perception, memory, attention, knowledge and thinking.

Recommended Text: Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind by Daniel Reisberg. 4th edition; Norton Publishing Company. This is a comprehensive text for the course and can be purchased new or used (older editions also okay) through the bookstore. <u>Two copies of the text</u> are also available on reserve at the Knight Library.

Course Format: The material in this course will be presented through a combination of assigned readings, class lectures, in-class discussion, and demonstrations. Lecture material and readings will have overlap, but will not be replications of each other; some lecture material will not be covered in the readings and vice versa. You are expected to do the assigned reading **before** the class period in which it is due. Reading the material before the corresponding lectures will help your performance in two ways. First, discussions of the material during lecture will be more fruitful if you have at least a general understanding of the material beforehand, helping you to ultimately comprehend and retain the material. Second, questions drawn from the assigned readings will be included on the regularly scheduled quizzes, *even if they have not yet been discussed in lecture (see below)*. This is a fast paced class and you should plan on scheduling regular intervals of time for studying outside of class.

GRADING POLICY

Final grades are based on consistent performance through the term. As such, the final grade will include the weighted scores for the quizzes, the term papers, study group discussion responses and the exams. In addition, some opportunities for extra-credit will also be available to all. Letter grades will be determined as follows: A (90-105% of total possible points), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-60%). Socres in the upper and lower third of each grade range will be awarded a 'plus' or a 'minus' respectively. Typically, grades are not curved, However, the instructor reserves the right to relax (but not stiffen) this criterion for final grade assingments, depending on the actual distribution of scores.

- Quizzes Off the 5 quizzes (5 MCQs each), scores from the your highest- scoring 4 quizzes form 20% of final grade
- *Midterm Exam* 30% of final grade
- Final Exam 35% of final grade

- Study group discussion responses 15% of final grade
- Extra-credit up to 3 points added to final grade

TESTS

Quizzes: (20%)

Short quizzes will be given in the <u>first 15 minutes</u> of previously scheduled classes (see the course schedule). The quizzes are designed to serve as quick reviews of recently covered materials as well as to help you keep up with the reading assignments. Quizzes will contain 5 multiple choice questions that pertain to the most recently presented lecture material. Of the 6 quizzes, the 1 with the lowest score will be dropped, with the total score of the remaining four yielding 20% of the final grade. <u>No make-up quizzes will be offered; if you miss a quiz, that grade will be one that will be dropped.</u>

Exams: (Midterm - 30%; Final 35%)

The exams will be part multiple choice, part fill-in-the-blank, matching and part short answer/short essay. The final exam will contain questions drawn from the entire course, but with a greater focus on material covered since the Midterm. Please bring a number two pencil with you on exam days. **No make-up exams will be given without evidence of a valid excuse**, and the final cannot be taken earlier or later than the time listed in the University final exam schedule – if you know in advance that you cannot take all exams on the appointed dates (see the course schedule below), do not take this course! If unforeseen circumstances during the term prevent you from taking an exam, notify the instructor immediately. Allowable excused absences are executive orders/ court orders, medical emergencies and athletic events such as away games for student athletes. All such occasions must be accompanied by official documentation. <u>Make-up exams may be different in format in both type and number of question</u>.

Study group Reading responses and discussion assignments: (15%) We will form 5-6 member study groups in order to have some contact time outside the class in which course work maybe discussed and small assignments completed as a group. The study groups will be expected to meet once a week and 5 discussion reports will be due during the term (see outline for due dates). For each report, I will give you assignments and will be looking for timely responses (via Blackboard). Only one response is required from each group for each of the assignments. All members of the group will receive the same grade for the assignment.

Note: Sometimes, group members feel that not everyone in the group is working to their best and so it is not fair for everyone in the group to receive the same grade for an assignment. If such is the case for your group, you can choose (as a group) to award individual grades for the report. *If* the group decides that it is not fair that every person receives the same grade for a particular report, I will let the group decide on grades for each member. For example, if the group grade on a particular assignment is 85 and there are 5 members in the group, the group will have a total of 425 points (85 times 5) to spread among its members. The group can then negotiate with all members and spread out the total points to all members in any way the group sees fits, as long as all members agree to the point spread. *The only requirement is that the group negotiates who gets what grade and that all members of the group give me a written agreement to the point spread. It will be the responsibility of the group to notify me of the point spread if they wish to use this alternative*

What about extra credit? Extra-credit is awarded for consistent application and performance as recorded through your class participation and occasional in-class assignments/group work/discussions. Class Participation is based on attendance AND discussion. You can earn up to 3 points in extra credit for Class Participation. These points will be added to your final grade at the end of the class. So, if you get an 80% with all of your tests and assignments, and you earn 3 points of extra credit, your final score will be 83%.

Due Dates: dates for the term paper are contained in the course outline. **Assignments are due** by the start of lecture on the appropriate date. As per guidelines for each assignment, you may need to submit responses on Blackboard, turn them in to me during class or during office hours the day before it is due. An assignment turned in after its deadline will be marked down 10% for each day late.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Keith Miller <u>kmiller@uoregon.edu</u> or Molly Sirois-<u>sirois@uoregon.edu</u>, tel. 346-1155, TTY 346-1083) send a letter verifying your disability. For a list of resources provided by the Office of Disability Services, please see <u>http://ds.uoregon.edu/DS Pages/DS AccessServ.html</u>

Students for whom English is a Second Language: If you are a non-native English speaker and think you may have trouble in this course due of language difficulties, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make special arrangements. Please note that you may NOT use dictionaries/translators during tests without discussing arrangements with the instructor at the beginning of the term.

Academic Learning Services: If you have difficulty with the course materials at any time, you are encouraged to contact the instructors or TA so that we can provide timely assistance. In addition, the resources of the Academic Learning Services (<u>http://als.uoregon.edu/services/services.html</u>) can be invaluable to students that require assistance in, for example, perfecting good study habits or honing their writing skills.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may be required to submit writing assignments to SafeAssign. SafeAssign is a software tool designed to help students avoid plagiarism and improper citation. For more information on SafeAssign refer to guidelines on Blackboard. By enrolling in this course you grant the instructor permission to submit your work to SafeAssign or some other plagiarism program analysis and detection program.

<u>Cheating will NOT be tolerated in any form in this class.</u> All work submitted in this course must be your own. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. If your responses on assignments are suspected of plagiarism or if a proctor has any reason to be uncomfortable about your conduct during a test, they may ask you to move seats, confiscate your test and/or mark an "F" for that test/assignment. All 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 instructors before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (For more information, see the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/).

Course Outline: This is only a working draft of the course outline; it will be revised as the term progresses. *Dates on which particular topics are to be presented in lecture are subject to change, as are reading assignment due dates; however, I will not change the dates of quizzes and exams unless absolutely necessary.* The official updated version of the outline will reside on the Blackboard web site. Updated print versions can also be obtained from me during normal office hours.

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Date	Торіс	Recommended readings	Assignments/ Due dates/ Quizzes
20-June	Overview of Cognitive Psychology	Ch. 1	
21-June	Neural Basis of Cognition	Ch. 2	
22-June	Object Perception	Ch. 3	
23-June	Interacting with the world around us	Ch. 3	Quiz 1
27-June	Attention-Selective & Divided	Ch. 4	SGR 1 due
28-June	Memory systems -Working memory	Ch. 5	Quiz 2
29-June	Memory systems – LTM	Ch. 6	
30-June	Midterm (Chapters 2,3,4,5,6)		SGR 2 due
4-July	No class: Independence Day!		
5-July	Knowledge -still about memories!	Ch. 8	
6-July	Concept and Category Formation	Ch. 9	Quiz 3
7-July	Thinking – making judgments	Ch. 12	SGR 3 due
11-July	Reasoning – deductive and inductive	Ch. 13	Quiz 4
12-July	Problem Solving - decision making	Ch. 14	
13-July	Conscious and Unconscious Cognition	Ch. 15	Quiz 5
14-July	FINAL EXAM (Chapters 8,9,12,13,&15 but also somewhat comprehensive)		SGR 4 due