

PSY 305 – Cognition
Summer 2018
University of Oregon

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| Instructor: | Jeff Peterson | Course Dates: | July 23 rd - August 19 th |
| Office Hours: | Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:30 Location: 232 LISB | Classroom: | 111 Lillis |
| Contact: | jpeters7@uoregon.edu Tel. (541) 346-5724 | Time: | 12:00 – 1:50 mtwr |
| | | CRN: | 42165; 4 credits |

REQUIRED TEXT: *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind* by Daniel Reisberg. 6th edition; Norton Publishing Company. We will not be using the ZAPS component of the textbook, so feel free to purchase a used copy if you wish. A copy of the text is also available on reserve at the library.

COURSE WEBSITE: <https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/112361>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Cognitive psychology is the study of mental processes spanning low-level sensory processes to higher-level thinking. The course will examine key issues in cognition, various perspectives and models of cognition, as well as fundamental methods (such as experimental methods, data interpretation, neural correlates) will be introduced to familiarize students with the process of scientific reasoning. Overall, the subject matter of the course will be relatively broad covering much of the current knowledge on cognition. Major topics addressed in this class are 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, attention, memory, reasoning, problem solving and decision making. Focus is on theory and data in mainstream cognitive psychology while also making contact with research in other areas. The student who successfully navigates this course should have gained knowledge about the major findings and principles of the field, an ability to use the vocabulary, as well as an understanding of the various areas of human cognition.

COMPONENTS OF COURSE GRADE:

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Exams | 70% |
| Quizzes | 15% |
| Article Summary | 15% |
| Extra Credit | Up to 3% of final grade |

Letter Grades:

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|---|------------------------------------|
| A | 90 – 100% of total possible points |
| B | 80 – 89% |
| C | 70 – 79% |
| D | 60 – 69% |
| F | 0 – 59% |

Scores in the upper and lower third of each grade range will be awarded a 'plus' or a 'minus', respectively (e.g. 80-83.33 is a 'B-', 83.34 – 86.66 is a 'B', etc.). Grades will be awarded according to departmental standards (<https://psychology.uoregon.edu/courses/departement-grading-standards/>). Typically, grades are not curved. However, I reserve the right to relax (but not stiffen) this criterion for final grade assignments, depending on the actual distribution of scores in the class.

Exams (70%) Three exams will be given during the course. Midterm exams I and II are each worth 20% and the final exam is worth 30% of your grade. The final exam is cumulative but will focus on material covered after the second midterm. The format of each exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and/or figure labeling questions. Scantrons will be provided, but please bring your own pencil. Please note the exam dates on the course schedule below. These dates are fixed. **If you have a schedule conflict with any exam, contact me as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements!**

Quizzes (15%) Six quizzes will be given during the course with only the top five scores counting toward your final grade (i.e. the quiz with the lowest score will be dropped). Quizzes will cover content presented in lecture as well as the relevant chapters in the textbook. Each quiz will be made available on Canvas at 2:00 PM on the dates listed in the course schedule below. The quiz will remain available until 12:00 PM (noon) the following day. Once started, you will have one hour to complete the quiz. You should complete each quiz on your own but may use any materials you have available.

Article Summary (15%) For this assignment, you are to read and summarize a research article relevant to cognitive psychology. Complete instructions for this assignment as well as a grading rubric are available on the course website in a document titled *Article Summary Instructions*. In brief, the summary should describe the hypothesis, the methods used to test the hypothesis, the results, the authors' interpretation of these results, and your own critique of the article. A selection of possible articles for this assignment is available on the course website, however, you are welcome to summarize a peer-reviewed article of your own choice, but please send it to me in advance for approval.

Extra Credit (3% max.) Extra credit can be earned by either participating in research through the psychology department's Human Subjects Pool or by completing an additional article summary. A maximum of 3% can be earned toward your final grade (e.g. if your grade after the final exam is 79%, completing all the extra credit will change your grade to 82%). Participation in the Human Subjects Pool requires you to create an account on SONA (uopsych.sona-systems.com), where you can search for available studies in which to serve as a participant. For each hour you serve as a participant, you will earn 1% extra credit, up to a maximum of 3% (i.e. 3 hours of participation). Participation beyond 3 hours will not be counted toward additional extra credit. Further information regarding participation in the Human Subjects Pool is available on the course website, however, please let me know if you have any additional questions. The deadline for completing extra credit is 11:59 pm on August 18th.

Grading problems: If you feel there has been an error in working out your grade please let me know as soon as possible. Work out your grade as described above and specify the reason for your concern when contacting me. I want you to get every point you have earned. If you are unhappy with your final grade but agree that it has been worked out correctly as described above, please don't ask for a better grade, or extra opportunities to make a better grade, as a "favor" at the end of the semester. The answer to such unfair requests must always be "no".

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is encouraged as the content covered in lecture will not completely overlap with that of the textbook. In addition, students typically benefit from in-class discussions. However, the decision to attend lecture or not is entirely up to you.

OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT:

I strongly encourage students that have questions or concerns to talk to me either before/after class or during office hours. If you are unable to meet with me during my office hours, please let me know and we will find a mutually convenient time to meet. Other than office hours, the best way to reach me is via email rather than by phone.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All students are assumed to have read the Honor Code and consented to be bound by it. Violations of the Honor Code are taken extremely seriously and will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to the Dean of Students for further action. Specific violations include (but are not limited to):

- Use or provision of prohibited assistance during exams
- Plagiarism – this includes both the use of the words and ideas without attribution.

All exams administered in this course are to be taken without the use of notes, books, ancillary materials, and without the assistance of any other person or group in the class or outside of the class. Use of electronic devices such as PDAs, cell phones, or audio devices during the exams is prohibited. Use of these devices during exams is viewed as a violation. If you have any questions, please ask. I will assume that all students enrolled in the course know and understand what constitutes academic misconduct and agree to be bound by these rules. All exams are the property of the instructor. Students in possession of a copy of the exam (hard copy, photo, etc.) or a copy of any of the keys automatically forfeits their grade for the exam and receives a zero.

COURTESY:

Included here are some general rules that seem obvious, but I will emphasize them anyway. Your cell phone should NEVER ring audibly during class. Do not chat with others during class. Please be on time. If you absolutely are unavoidably late or absolutely must leave early, please sit at the very back of the class near the door.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

The UO works to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. If you have a documented disability, please request that a counselor at the Accessible Education Center (uoaec@uoregon.edu, tel. 541-346-1155) send a letter verifying the type of accommodation that is appropriate. For a list of resources provided by the Accessible Education Center, please see <http://aec.uoregon.edu>.

Students for whom English is a Second Language: If you are a non-native English speaker and think you may have trouble in the course due to language difficulties, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Schedule

| Date | Topic* | Readings | Assignments/Quizzes** |
|---------|--|----------|-----------------------|
| Week 1 | | | |
| 23-July | Introduction & History of Cognitive Psychology | Ch. 1 | |
| 24-July | Neural Basis of Cognition | Ch. 2 | Quiz 1 |
| 25-July | Visual Perception | Ch. 3 | |
| 26-July | Recognizing Objects | Ch. 4 | Quiz 2 |
| Week 2 | | | |
| 30-July | Midterm Exam I (Chapters: 1-4) | | |
| 31-July | Attention I | Ch. 5 | |
| 1-Aug | Attention II | Ch. 5 | Quiz 3 |
| 2-Aug | Memory I | Ch. 6 | |
| Week 3 | | | |
| 6-Aug | Memory II | Ch. 7/8 | Quiz 4 |
| 7-Aug | Midterm Exam II (Chapters: 5-8) | | |
| 8-Aug | Concepts and Knowledge | Ch. 9 | |
| 9-Aug | Judgement and Reasoning | Ch. 12 | Quiz 5 |
| Week 4 | Article Summary due 8/12 at midnight | | |
| 13-Aug | Problem Solving and Intelligence | Ch. 13 | |
| 14-Aug | Conscious Thought, Unconscious Thought | Ch. 14 | Quiz 6 |
| 15-Aug | Review for final exam (optional) | | |
| 16-Aug | Final Exam (Cumulative, but focused on chapters: 9, 12-14) | | |

* While the date a given topic is discussed may change slightly, the exam dates will not. Any substantial change will be announced and a revised syllabus will be posted on Canvas.

** Each quiz will be made available on Canvas at 2:00 PM on the dates listed above. The quiz will remain available until 12:00 PM (noon) the following day.