

PSY 305: Cognitive Psychology

TEACHING STAFF

Instructor: Ben Hutchinson

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Hours: 1-2pm Mondays

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Hours: 4-5pm Mondays

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cognitive psychology is the study of mental processes spanning low level sensory processes to higher level thinking. Major topics addressed in this class are perception, attention, memory, language, reasoning, and decision making. Central themes are the nature of mental representations, the role of context, and the role of expectancies in perception, attention, and memory. Focus is on theory and data in mainstream cognitive psychology while also making contact with research in other areas. This is a social science course in which core psychological concepts of mental representation and expectancies will be introduced and explored in the various areas of human cognition, so that the student who successfully navigates the course should have gained knowledge about the major findings and principles in the field. The course will examine key issues in cognition and various perspectives and models of cognition. 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.

COURSE MATERIAL

Optional Textbook: *Cognition*. 7th Edition by G.A. Radvansky & M.H. Ashcraft, Pearson.

Lectures and Quizzes: Available via Canvas (<https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/125159>). Whenever possible, digital version of slides will be available the night before the corresponding lecture.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Your final grade for the course will be based on weekly quizzes, a final exam, and participation with the following breakdown:

- 70% of final grade based on 7 out of 9 weekly quizzes
- 25% of final grade based on final, cumulative exam
- 5% of final grade based on participation

Weekly Quizzes: Each week beginning the second week of the course, there will be a quiz posted on Canvas covering the course material for that week (they are non-cumulative). Each week, quizzes will be

posted Wednesday before midnight and will be due Sunday before midnight. Within that window, you may take the quiz at any time, but once you start it, you must complete it within 60 minutes. Answers to the quizzes will be available the following week. There will be a total of 9 quizzes, although only the 7 with the highest scores will count towards your grade. Feel free to use whatever course material to assist you while you take the quiz, but please do not consult or discuss with others about the quizzes. Your answers on the quiz are expected to be a product of your own, individual effort and violations of this expectation will be considered a breach of academic integrity and result in disciplinary action.

Final Exam: There will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the term consisting of short answer and multiple choice questions. Please be aware that absolutely no makeup exams will be given without prior arrangements. Excuses will not be considered, only the timeliness of the request. Requests for a make-up exam made prior to the exam period will be granted whenever possible.

Participation: I strongly encourage (although do not require) attending class as quizzes/exams will cover material which has been presented in lectures. There will not be any questions which ask about information only found in the text.

Grading: A straight grading scale is the default (e.g., 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 59 or lower=F) in line with the standards set by the Department of Psychology (<https://psychology.uoregon.edu/courses/department-grading-standards/>). However, I reserve the right to adjust the grades depending on the distribution of scores (i.e., curve) and will periodically provide information about the class distribution of quiz scores.

COURSE POLICIES

Etiquette: As a courtesy to me and to your fellow classmates, please arrive on time for class and stay for the duration of the class period. If you absolutely are unavoidably late or absolutely must leave early, please sit at the very back of the class near the door. Getting up in the middle of class is very disruptive. Please turn off all cell phones and any other electronic device that might be distracting to others at the beginning of class

Accessibility: If you anticipate needing accommodations to do your best in this course, please request that a counselor at the Accessible Education Center, (541) 346-1155, uoaec@uoregon.edu, send a letter detailing what accommodations are appropriate ASAP. For a list of resources provided by the Accessible Education Center, see <http://aec.uoregon.edu>.

Academic Integrity: 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/quizzes. All exams/quizzes are to be taken without the assistance of any other person or group, in the class or outside of the class. Further, the in-class exam administered in this course is to be taken without the use of notes, books, ancillary materials and use of electronic devices such as smartphones or audio devices during the exam is prohibited.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

| WEEK | DATE | TOPIC |
|------|--------------|---|
| 1 | 1/7 1/9 | Introduction to Cognitive Psychology History and Methods |
| 2 | 1/14 1/16 | Cognition and the Brain Sensation and Perception |
| 3 | 1/21 1/23 | MLK Day -- No Class Attention I |
| 4 | 1/28 1/30 | Attention II Sensory Memory/Mental Imagery |
| 5 | 2/4 2/6 | Short-term/Working Memory Long-term Memory I |
| 6 | 2/11 2/13 | Long-term Memory II Encoding/Retrieval Interactions |
| 7 | 2/18 2/20 | Memory Errors and Forgetting Representation of Knowledge |
| 8 | 2/25 2/27 | Language Reasoning and Problem Solving |
| 9 | 3/4 3/6 | Judgment/Decision Making Emotion and Affect |
| 10 | 3/11 3/13 | Cognitive Development Sleep and Consciousness |
| 11 | 3/19 | Final Exam, 10:15am in LLCS 101 |