

COURSE SYLLABUS
PSY 2400-911 Cognitive Psychology
Summer 2013 (Session I) - Online

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Office Hours:
By chance & by appointment

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Required Text:

Reed, S.K. (2012). *Cognition: Theories and applications* (9th edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning. Available at the *Student Union Bookstore* (UT campus) and through various online sites.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the field of cognitive psychology. The course summarizes experimental research in cognitive psychology, discusses the major theories in the field, and attempts to relate the research and theories to cognitive tasks that people, like you, encounter in everyday life - for example, reading, driving, studying, judging advertising claims, evaluating legal testimony, solving problems on the job, and making healthcare decisions.

Teaching Method/Format:

Course content will be delivered through online lectures; therefore, you are strongly encouraged to read them. The text will serve to supplement this material. So, I expect you to also read the assigned text. I believe that students learn best through active discussion and participation. This works well in a regular class; it doesn't work quite as well online. However, at times I will call on you to respond via online chat (for participation points), and I always welcome volunteer responses and/or questions where appropriate, particularly if you don't understand what's being discussed.

Evaluation:

There will be four exams: three midterms and a non-cumulative final. Check the course schedule for exam dates; I reserve the right to change these dates if it becomes necessary. The first day listed is the earliest date you can take the exam. However, you can take it on either of the next two days as well. This is a matter of convenience. I fully understand that it's summer and that most of you are working. So, you have a choice between three possible dates for each exam. Each of the four exams will be 40 points and is worth approximately 23.5% of your final grade. Format will be mixed, i.e., there will be some multiple choice (25 questions worth 1 point each) and some short answer/essay questions (4-5 questions worth 15 points total). To help study for the exams, I will provide study guides. However, do not rely solely on the study guides; everything in the lectures and in the book is fair game.

The remaining roughly 6% (10 points) of your grade will be determined by your engagement in our regular discussion boards. We (the TA and I) will come up with 5 questions/topics. To get your points (2 for each topic), you will need to GENERATE an original comment/thought of your own and RESPOND to someone else's comment/thought. Keep in mind, that we won't grade the content of your posts, but we can easily detect differences between posts demonstrating interest and/or understanding in the topic from posts that are simply submitted to meet the requirements. That is, if you want full credit, your posts need to be thoughtful and submitted by the due date (which will be displayed along with the question/topic of the week). You don't need to be a genius; in fact, most people are not. But don't be lazy or wait until the last minute. And make sure you do participate; 6% doesn't seem like a lot, but it could make the difference between a B+ and an A-.

In sum, your final grade will be determined by your performance on the four exams plus your participation in the online discussion board posts. There may be some extra credit opportunities that will help to raise your grade. Generally, I grade on a percentage basis (93-100 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, etc) with no preconceived quotas of numbers of people receiving different grades. Thus, I have no qualms about giving all As, no As, or anything in between.

Missed Exam Policy:

I expect you to make every effort to take the exams as scheduled. However, make-up exams will be allowed for legitimate health or personal reasons. If you have a legitimate reason for missing an exam, please let me know before the exam. Exams must be made up in a timely manner; otherwise, you will receive a zero for that exam, which will dramatically impact your final grade.

Course Withdrawal, Academic Honesty, and Student Behavior:

Please consult the University Catalog for more detail on these policies. There are two things I will highlight though: 1) academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and there will be severe consequences (e.g., receiving an F on an exam and/or in the course) if I see it, and 2) be polite and respect others, even if you disagree with their opinions.

Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	
1	5/13	M	Intro & History	5	6/10	M		
		T	IP Approach			T	Exam 3	
		W	Pattern Recognition			W	Language	Chp 10
		R	Attention			R	Dec Making	Chp 14
2	5/20	M		6	6/17	M		
		T	Exam 1			T	Prob Solving	Chp 12
		W	STM			W	Creativity	Chp 13
		R				R	Exam 4	
3	5/27	M	LTM					
		T						
		W	Levels of Processing					
		R	Exam 2					
4	6/3	M	Mental Imagery					
		T	Categorization					
		W						
		R	Semantic Organization					