

COURSE SYLLABUS
PSY 2400-001 Cognitive Psychology
Fall 2020
9:35 – 10:55 am MW - Online

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30
MW 4:30-5:30, R 11-12
Also by chance & by appointment

Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30 (online only)
By chance & by appointment

Course Website: Blackboard Learn (Collaborate Ultra)

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 and a few Powerpoint slides (that I normally use in my in-person class) will serve to supplement this material. So, I expect you to read them too. 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 may 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. However, only three will count towards your grade; that is, I will drop the lowest of your four exam scores. 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. Each of the four exams will be 40 points and is worth roughly 31.67% of your final grade (3 exams = 95% of your 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 5% of your grade will be determined by your engagement in our discussion boards. We (the TA and I) have come up with 4 questions/topics (one for each section of the course); you will be required to respond to one of these topics. To get your points (5 points total), you will need to GENERATE an original written comment/thought of your own (2 points) and RESPOND in writing to someone else's comment/thought (2 points). Finally, you will be required to participate in an oral discussion about the same topic (1 point). 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 section). 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; 5% 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 three exams that "count" plus your participation in one online discussion board. In borderline cases, class participation will be considered as well. There are likely to be some extra credit opportunities too that will help to raise your grade. In fact, one of those extra credit opportunities (3 points) is your participation in a second discussion topic (1 point generate, 1 point respond, 1 point oral discussion). 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.

Important Dates:

In addition to the exam dates, there are some other dates to keep in kind: M 9/7 and W 11/11. There is no class on these dates.

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.

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.

Special Note:

It's important to note that based on the unpredictability of the COVID-19 virus, things can change at any time, so please be patient and understanding as we move throughout the semester. I also ask that you keep me informed of concerns you may have about class, completing coursework/assignments in a timely manner, and/or health concerns related to the virus.

Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading
1	M 8/17	Intro & History	Chp 1
	W 8/19	IP Approach	
2	M 8/24	Pattern Recognition	Chp 2
	W 8/26		
3	M 8/31	Attention	Chp 3
	W 9/2		
4	W 9/9	Exam 1	
5	M 9/14	STM	Chp 4
	W 9/16		
6	M 9/21	LTM	Chp 5
	W 9/23		
7	M 9/28	Levels of Processing	Chp 6
	W 9/30		
8	M 10/5	Exam 2	
	W 10/7	Mental Imagery	Chp 7

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading
9	M 10/12		
	W 10/14	Categorization	Chp 8
10	M 10/19		
	W 10/21	Semantic Organization	Chp 9
11	M 10/26		
	W 10/28	Exam 3	
12	M 11/2	Language	Chp 10
	W 11/4		
13	M 11/9	Dec Making	Chp 14
14	M 11/16		
	W 11/18	Prob Solving	Chp 12
15	M 11/23	Expertise & Creativity	Chp 13

Final Exam: 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, Mon, Nov 30