

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

31:16:001 – Summer 2009

1:00 PM – 1:50 PM M-F in E105 SSH

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Office Hours: T, W: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM or by appointment

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Phone: 335-2406

Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Gupta

Phone: 335-2908

Academic Coordinator: Dr. Johnson

Phone: 335-0135

Textbook: Daniel Reisberg, Cognition: Exploring the science of the mind, 3rd Edition

Class website: <http://www.psychology.uiowa.edu/Classes/31016/>

Course Goals, Objectives, and Structure

The intent of this course is to introduce the basic concepts and findings of cognitive psychology, including the topics of perception, attention, learning, memory, language, categorization, imagery, judgment and decision-making, and problem-solving. Cognition will be discussed from the perspectives of information processing and cognitive neuroscience. The course will consist of readings and lectures. Much of the material will be covered in both the readings and the lectures, but some material will be covered only in lecture or only in the readings. The tests will emphasize material covered in lecture, and consistent attendance in lectures is therefore extremely important.

Grading Procedures

Grades will be based on 2 midterm exams (40 points each), a final exam (60 points), 10 in-class writing assignments (40 points total), and 1 term paper (20 points) for a total of 200 points. All exams will be held during the normal class period. The exam questions will be combination of short answer, multiple choice and essay. The final exam will cover the last set of lectures (40 points), and it will also include questions from earlier in the semester (20 points). The term paper will be due at the beginning of lecture **on July 27th**. There will be no extra credit. There will be 10 in-class writing assignments each worth 5 points. Your two lowest in-class assignment scores will be dropped.

The calculation of the final grade will be based on the **percentage of points** earned throughout the course as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------|
| 93 - 100 | 90 - 92 | 87 - 89 | 83 - 86 | 80- 82 | 77- 79 | 73- 76 | 70 - 72 | 60 - 69 | below 60 |
| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D | F |

For your reference, the distribution of grades recommended by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for an intermediate-level class such as this is 18% A, 36% B, 39% C, 5% D, and 2% F.

Lecture Schedule

| Week | Date | Topic | Readings, etc. |
|------|----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Tu 06/09 | Introduction | |
| | W 06/10 | How to Read/Write a Journal Article / History | Bem Article |
| | Th 06/11 | History Cont. | Chapter 1 |
| | F 06/12 | Cognitive Neuroscience I: Cells & Brains | Chapter 2 |
| 2 | M 06/15 | Cognitive Neuroscience II: Methods | |
| | Tu 06/16 | Perception I: Basic Processes | Chapter 3 |
| | W 06/17 | Perception II: Cues | |
| | Th 06/18 | Perception III: Form | |
| | F 06/19 | Attention I: Varieties of Attention | Chapter 4 |
| 3 | M 06/22 | Attention II: Theories of Attention | |
| | Tu 06/23 | Attention III: Attention and Brain | |
| | W 06/24 | Article Discussion | Treisman/ Mordkoff Articles |
| | Th 06/25 | Review Session, in class | |
| | F 06/26 | Exam 1, in class: History, Cognitive Neuroscience, Perception, Attention | |
| 4 | M 06/29 | Executive Control | Executive Control Article |
| | Tu 06/30 | Motor Control | Discuss Paper Assignment |
| | W 07/01 | Memory I: Memory Structures | Chapter 5 |
| | Th 07/02 | Memory I: Memory Structures cont. | |
| | F 07/03 | <i>No Class - University Holiday</i> | |
| 5 | M 07/06 | Memory II: Retention & Retrieval | Chapter 6 |
| | Tu 07/07 | Memory III: Connectionism | Chapter 8 (pp. 280 - 286) |
| | W 07/08 | Memory IV: Memory in Action | Chapter 7 & 11 |
| | Th 07/09 | Memory V: Semantic Networks | Chapter 8 |
| | F 07/10 | <i>No Class – Study Day</i> | Catch up on work for semester! |
| 6 | M 07/13 | Article Discussion | Loftus & Palmer Article |
| | Tu 07/14 | Review Session, in class | |
| | W 07/15 | Exam 2, in class: Executive Control, Motor Control, Memory | |
| | Th 07/16 | Knowledge I: Mental Imagery | |
| | F 07/17 | Knowledge II: Concepts & Categories | Chapter 9 |
| 7 | M 07/20 | Knowledge II: Concepts & Categories cont. | |

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|---|----------|--|--------------------------------|
| | Tu 07/21 | Language I: Elements | Chapter 10 |
| | W 07/22 | Language II: Development | |
| | Th 07/23 | Language III: Language and Brain | |
| | F 07/24 | Thinking I: Judgment & Decision Making | Chapter 12 + pp. 436-441 |
| 8 | M 07/27 | Thinking II: Problem Solving | Chapter 14 -- Paper Due |
| | Tu 07/28 | Consciousness | Chapter 15 |
| | W 07/29 | Article Discussion/Review Session, in class | Consciousness Article |
| | Th 07/30 | Final Exam Part 1, in class: Knowledge, Language, Thinking, Consciousness | |
| | F 07/31 | Final Exam Part 2, in class: Cumulative Portion | |

Examination and Assignment Policies

Makeup exams will be typically allowed only for university-mandated and officially verified reasons (e.g., illness, mandatory religious obligations, or participation in certain sports events). If the absence can be anticipated in advance of the test date, I must be notified before the day of the test. If you are ill or have an emergency on the day of the test, you should contact me before the time of the test, if possible, and as soon as possible otherwise (an e-mail is sufficient). If you do not contact me in a timely manner, you may receive a score of 0 for the test.

If you do poorly on an exam, you are encouraged to look at your answers to help you focus your studying for the next exam. Also, students sometimes wish to argue that the answer they gave for a given question was actually correct. If you would like to discuss the exam, please come during office hours or make an appointment to see me. **Note, however, you may review an exam or challenge a question only during the 2 weeks following the exam date.**

Learning is facilitated by active participation in the class. Attendance will not be graded directly, but the in class writing assignments will only be given in class. You will need to attend class in order to receive points for the assignment. Your two lowest in class assignments will be dropped, and this provides a way to miss a class without being penalized. Of course, if you are ill or have some other officially recognized excuse, you may turn in an assignment at a different time, as arranged with me. If the absence can be anticipated in advance, you must make arrangements in advance.

Because your two lowest worksheet scores will be dropped, I will be very strict about excuses for worksheets. **Therefore, you should use the two dropped worksheets only in case of accidents and emergencies.** Don't just blow off worksheets "because you can" – you might need them later. For example, if a student claims that a worksheet was handed in and it becomes lost, there is no way to determine whether the assignment was handed in. In such a case, this worksheet would be one of the two that is dropped.

Late term papers will be graded down in accordance with the degree of lateness (unless there is a university-mandated and officially verified excuse). You will lose 20% of the possible points for each day the paper is late (with a smaller number of points lost for a fraction of a day).

Email Policy

In accordance with the Psychology department e-mail policy, all official course e-mail (including notification about changes in test dates and times, required reading materials, etc.) will be sent ONLY to uiowa email accounts. Students are responsible for checking this e-mail account for important course information. Note that it is trivial to have e-mail from your uiowa account automatically forwarded to another account (e.g., a hotmail account; for details, see <http://blue.weeg.uiowa.edu/tools/>).

Cell Phone/Pager Policy

Cell phones and pagers must be on silent mode during lecture. CELL PHONES AND PAGERS CANNOT BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE DURING EXAMS. If you do bring a cell phone or pager to an exam, *it must remain in your book-bag/backpack/etc during the exam*. If a student is found to have a cell phone or pager anywhere other than inside their book-bag during an exam, the cell phone or pager will be taken from the student and procedures for cheating (see below) may be followed.

Prerequisites

The Psychology department has a hierarchical course structure that requires students to complete certain prerequisites before taking upper level classes. The prerequisites for this course are 31:001 or 31:003. The Psychology department will check student records to confirm completion of these required courses. The Psychology department may administratively drop students who are registered for this course without meeting the prerequisite requirements.

Collegiate Policies

This course is given by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This means that class policies on matters such as requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students wishing to drop this course after the official deadline must receive approval of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Details of the University policy of cross enrollments may be found at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/deos/crossenroll.doc>

Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and any other activities that result in a student presenting work that is not his or her own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is reported to the departmental DEO and then to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations first must register with Student Disability Services and then meet with a SDS counselor who determines eligibility for services. A student approved for accommodations should meet privately with the course instructor to arrange particular accommodations. www.uiowa.edu/~sds/

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Visit www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/ for definitions, assistance, and the full policy.

Student Complaint Procedures

Complaints about the instructor or teaching assistant should ordinarily be resolved with the instructor or TA first. If the complaint is not resolved to the student's satisfaction, the student should discuss the matter further with the instructor (if the matter involves a teaching assistant) or course supervisor (if the instructor is a teaching assistant), or the Psychology Department Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies (see name and phone number above). If the matter remains unresolved, the student may submit a written complaint to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs, 120 Schaeffer Hall (335-2633).

These are the recommended procedures of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. However, students always have the right to complain first to someone other than the instructor (for instance, to the coordinator of undergraduate studies, the department chair, or the University Ombudsperson) if they do not feel, for whatever reason, that they can directly approach the instructor. Any member of the University community may consult the Office of the University Ombudsperson (C108 Seashore Hall, 335-3608) for help with problems or disputes, particularly those that do not appear resolvable through existing channels. All complaints must be made within six months of the incident.

www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml#5