
Psychology 3500
Cognition
Fall 2008

Professor: Dr. Aaron Ashley
Lecture Time: MWF: 8:00 – 8:50
Lecture Location: SS 347
Office: SS 360
Office Hours: MWF: 10:00 – 11:00
T: 4:30 – 5:30
TR: 11:30 – 12:00
Email: AaronAshley@weber.edu
Phone: (801) 626-8743

Texts: Kellogg, R. T. (2007). *Fundamentals of Cognitive Psychology*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Spellman, B. A., & Willingham, D. T. (Eds.) (2005). *Current Directions in Cognitive Psychology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Course Description: Cognitive psychology is the study of mental activity. It is the investigation of the so-called “black-box” between external stimulation and observable response. Some of the topics of inquiry in cognitive psychology include perception, attention, memory, language, learning, and problem-solving. Cognitive psychologists are not only interested in understanding how mental processes occur and interact, but also in how we can use this understanding to enhance our lives. This course provides an overview of the field of cognitive psychology.

Course Objectives and Expected Outcomes: In this course, you will:

1. Become familiar with cornerstone topics, theories, and findings in cognitive psychology.
2. Gain an understanding of how data is collected and interpreted in cognitive psychology experiments.
3. Develop the ability to effectively apply cognitive psychology research to different aspects of everyday life.
4. Understand how various cognitive processes operate in relation to each other, the brain, and the environment.

Grades: Your final course grade will come from your performance on four exams (100 pts each), four writing assignments (100 pts each), ten quizzes (20 pts each), ten sets chapter questions (20 pts each), and class participation (100 pts). There are 1300 total points possible for the course. The following letter grade equivalents shall apply:

A	90 - 100%	C+	78 - 79%	D+	68 - 69%
B+	88 - 89%	C	74 - 77%	D	64 - 67%
B	84 - 87%	C-	70 - 73%	D-	60 - 63%
B-	80 - 83%	E	< 60%		

Exams (100 pts each): The course material is broken into four sections with each section covering two to three text-book chapters and three to four articles. Each section will have a corresponding exam. The format of the exams will be multiple choice and essay, with each exam containing approximately twenty-five to thirty-five multiple choice questions and two to four essay questions. The dates of each exam is listed below. You will have from 8:00 until noon on the dates listed below to take the exam. These dates will not change. Therefore, you know at this moment the dates and times for each of your exams in this class. Prepare your schedule accordingly for each exam, because make-up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances.

Testing Center Hours: All exams will be taken in the Social Science Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Science Building (SS 036). In order to take an exam, you must show up at the center on the correct day(s), during testing center hours, and with a picture ID. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID, or if you come after the hours specified. You will also need a #2 pencil, and 10¢ to purchase a scantron form.

Make-up Exams: As you will have a free class period in which to complete each exam **make-up exams will be subject to a penalty of 10 points per day (including weekends and holidays). There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy!**

Writing Assignments (100 pts each): During the course of the semester we will cover several research articles related to the material we are covering in the text. Some of these articles will be theoretical in nature and others will have a more applied stance. For each section you will write a review paper for one of the articles that the article to the material discussed in the text and in class. Each of these papers will be approximately 1500 words in length and should follow APA format. Both a hard copy, due in class, and an electronic copy (submitted via WSU Online) are required for credit. Papers are to be turned in the last class period before each exam. That is, the first paper will be due Friday September 19, the second paper will be due Wednesday October 22, the third paper will be due Wednesday November 12, and the fourth paper will be due Friday December 5.

Quizzes (20 pts each): There will be ten short quizzes (20 pts each) occurring during the course of the semester. Quizzes will come directly from the required readings and will be given at random times during the class period. As quizzes are given during class, there will be no make-up quizzes given. Quizzes will come from the assigned readings.

Chapter Questions (20 pts each): For each chapter you are to develop a set of 5 essay questions related to the material presented in the chapter. These questions are due at the beginning of class on the day we begin discussion of the chapter. For example, the questions for Chapter 1 are due Friday August 29.

Class Participation (100 pts): As a student in this class, it is your responsibility to be an active participant. By active participant, I mean that it is your responsibility to be in class (on-time), prepared (i.e., you have read the assigned materials), ready to participate

in class discussion (and to do so), and you behave in a manner representative of an academic environment (see Course Policies and Expectations below).

Course Policies and Expectations:

Attendance: Attendance is not required for this class; it is, however, highly encouraged that you attend all classes. The student is responsible for all lecture materials and announcements made in class whether you are present or not. Because this course covers a broad overview of concepts and theories in psychology, attendance is very important and may determine final grades in borderline cases. Additionally, you are expected to be present, attentive, and participate during the entire class period. I do not expect you to arrive late, nor do I expect you to leave early. Both of these are disruptive to the class, and will not be tolerated.

If you must miss class, **do not** contact me with questions about what was covered in class. At this point, you are to obtain the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of four of your class mates. These are the people that you should contact in case of a class absence. Only after contacting these individuals, obtaining class notes, and preparing the assigned materials are you to contact me. I'm happy to help you learn the material, but only after you have taken the time to prepare and review what you have missed.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Classroom Courtesy:

Cell phones/beepers/laptops: Leave **all** electronic devices turned off during class. I do not want to see any cell phones, laptops, or electronic devices of any type out during the class period. You can text message and email your friends during the other twenty-two hours and forty-five minutes of the day, but not during this class. This behavior is not only rude, but is also extremely disruptive. A first warning is forgetfulness. A second warning (and subsequent warnings) will result in five points off your final total points for each occurrence.

Discriminatory Harassment: Weber State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of discrimination based upon race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, creed, age, lack of American citizenship, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era, sexual orientation or preference or gender, including sexual/gender harassment. Such an environment is a necessary part of a healthy learning and working atmosphere because such discrimination undermines the sense of human dignity and sense of belonging of all people in the

environment. Thus, students in this class should practice professional deportment, and avoid treating others in a manner that is demeaning or derisive in any respect.

While diverse viewpoints and opinions are welcome in this class, in expressing them, we will practice mutual deference so important in the world of work. Thus, while I encourage you to share your opinions, when appropriate, you will be expected to do so in a manner that is respectful towards others, even when you disagree with them.

If you have questions regarding the university's policy against discrimination and harassment you may contact the university's AA/EO office (626-6239) or visit its website: <http://departments.weber.edu/aaeeo/>.

Academic dishonesty policy: Weber State University imposes specific disciplinary actions in response to incidents of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). These actions may include admonition, failing grade, failure of course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal. The specified policies can be found in the WSU Student Code at <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>. Cheating will not be tolerated in this or any class at WSU. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment will result in a grade of E. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism, if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism please contact me.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. Weber State University policies regarding Services for Students with Disabilities are available on the <http://weber.edu/ssd> website.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Monday Aug. 25	Overview	Syllabus
Wednesday Aug. 27	Intro to Cognitive Psychology	
Friday Aug. 29	Intro to Cognitive Psychology	
Monday Sept. 1	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	
Wednesday Sept. 3	Intro to Cognitive Psychology	CD: 153-161
Friday Sept. 5	Perception	CD: 1-2 & 11-18
Monday Sept. 8	Perception	
Wednesday Sept. 10	Perception	CD: 162-168
Friday Sept. 12	Attention	
Monday Sept. 15	Attention	
Wednesday Sept. 17	Attention	CD: 3-10
Friday Sept. 19	Review	
Monday Sept. 22	EXAM 1	8:00 – 12:00
Wednesday Sept. 24	Memory Systems	
Friday Sept. 26	Memory Systems	

Monday Sept. 29	Memory Systems	
Wednesday Oct. 1	Memory Systems	
Friday Oct. 3	Remembering Events	
Monday Oct. 6	Remembering Events	
Wednesday Oct. 8	Remembering Events	
Friday Oct. 10	Remembering Events	
Monday Oct. 13	Memory Distortions	CD: 27-35
Wednesday Oct. 15	Memory Distortions	CD: 44-50
Friday Oct. 17	NO CLASS (Fall Break)	
Monday Oct. 20	Memory Distortions	CD:36-43
Wednesday Oct. 22	Memory Distortions	
Friday Oct. 24	EXAM 2	8:00 – 12:00
Monday Oct. 27	Knowledge Representation	
Wednesday Oct. 29	Knowledge Representation	
Friday Oct. 31	Knowledge Representation	
Monday Nov. 3	Knowledge Representation	
Wednesday Nov. 5	Language	
Friday Nov. 7	Language	CD: 131-137
Monday Nov. 10	Language	CD: 138-152
Wednesday Nov. 12	Language	
Friday Nov. 14	EXAM 3	8:00 – 12:00
Monday Nov. 17	Problem Solving	CD: 51-58
Wednesday Nov. 19	Problem Solving	
Friday Nov. 21	Problem Solving	CD: 91-98
Monday Nov. 24	Problem Solving	
Wednesday Nov. 26	Reasoning & Decision Making	
Friday Nov. 28	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	
Monday Dec. 1	Reasoning & Decision Making	CD: 99-105
Wednesday Dec. 3	Reasoning & Decision Making	CD: 106-114
Friday Dec. 5	Reasoning & Decision Making	
Wednesday Dec 10	FINAL EXAM	8:00 – 12:00

*Please remember, this schedule is tentative and subject to change at the Instructors discretion.

Class Syllabus Acceptance Page

I have read the accompanying class syllabus. I have had all my questions relating to the syllabus (i.e., the class and class schedule) answered. I fully understand and am willing to follow all of the expectations, rules, and assignment dates associated with the class.

Printed Name

Signature

Date