

Psych 3500 – Cognition
Fall Semester 2020
Mon/Weds. 12:30-1:45 on Zoom

Professor: Shannon McGillivray, Ph.D.

Email: smcgillivray@weber.edu

Office Hours: Contact me and we can set up a private zoom chat or phone call.

Office Location: 382 Lindquist Hall (I probably won't be in the office much).

Cell Phone: 415-686-6016

Course Website - CANVAS: <https://weber.instructure.com/login>

Course Description

This course is intended to present a broad introduction to the field of Cognitive Psychology. The course will aim to provide a reasonably deep introduction to several of the key topics and research approaches in the field. The emphases will include visual perception, mental imagery, attention, memory and learning, categorization, language, decision-making, reasoning, problem solving, and consciousness. The course will also cover cognitive neuroscience methods and experimental findings where applicable.

Required Text

Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind, 7th edition by Daniel Reisberg
(the 6th edition is also okay to use)

Getting the Most out of the Course

In order to get the most out of this course you should join and participate in the zoom lectures. In order to do well in the course, you should do the readings, take notes, and be ready to participate in discussions and activities. I will be posting my lecture slides for the next chapter we're covering on the course website (CANVAS) AT LEAST by the night before each lecture. Keep in mind that I will be expanding on the slide content during class, and occasionally adding material not in the book - so the posted-lecture slides should NOT be considered sufficient to understand all that will be covered in lecture. Lectures will also be recorded and posted on CANVAS after class. If you are unable to join our zoom class you should definitely watch the recorded lecture.

For information about how to access Zoom and training on basic features see:

<https://apps.weber.edu/wsuiimages/online/Zoom%20For%20Students.pdf>

For more detailed information and zoom training see:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Quick-start-guide-for-new-users>

Course Requirements

Exams (50%)

There will be a total of 4 exams given throughout the semester. All of the material from the readings and lectures is fair game on the exams. The EXAMS ARE NOT CUMULATIVE, and thus only consist of material covered since the previous exam. The exams will consist of approximately 80ish multiple choice and a few fill-in-the-blank/short answer questions. The exams will be administered online through ChiTester. You will be able to take exams from home or any location with internet access. In order to take the exams go to <https://chitester.weber.edu/> and login with your weber username and password. There are no time limits on the exam. No make-up exams will be given except in cases of emergency. However, if you know you are going to be out of town or unavailable to take the exam during the posted dates we can make arrangements for you to take the exam early.

Chapter Quizzes (20%)

There will be a quiz associated with each chapter. Each quiz will consist of 10-15 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will be on material from the lecture and readings. The quizzes will be administered through Canvas. They are open notes and book, but you can only take each quiz one time – so be sure you have time to complete it once you start the quiz. You will not be allowed to take the quiz after the posted date. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. Generally speaking, you will have until the following Sunday evening after we finish a chapter to complete the quiz, with the exception of the last quiz before an exam in which case you'll have 2 days.

Short Papers (30%)

You will need to complete THREE short papers. You have a few options for these papers. **Option 1:** you need to find an article from the popular press (newspaper, magazine, news story, etc), OR a television show or movie that in some way relates to and discusses some topic within cognitive psychology. Please note, if you pick a television show, it is easier to summarize a single episode rather than an entire series. Each paper should be approximately 4 pages, double-spaced with normal fonts and margins. Article/show choice is key! If you pick something that is not very applicable, this assignment will be quite difficult. For each paper, you need to summarize the article/show/movie (approx. 1-2 page max). The summary portion is more for me to have a sense of the topic. The bulk of the paper should be a discussion of the cognitive psychological principles/concepts, theories (using accurate terminology from a cognitive psychologist's perspective) the report/show is discussing? You need to accurately label the topic/concept, and discuss how, exactly, it is portrayed. You can also discuss the topic/concept more broadly than does the article/show (i.e., what else do you know about it given what you've learned in class). Are any of the statements/claims controversial given what you/cognitive psychologists know, if so, why is this a controversial claim? Are there any relevant issues/concepts/theories NOT discussed in the article that given what you've learned in class, would be valuable to consider?

Option 2: Take a normal activity you engage in (e.g., driving to school, playing a sport, getting ready in the morning, taking an exam, etc.) and discuss ALL of the cognitive psychological principles involved that allow you to execute that activity correctly (or incorrectly as it might be). You can discuss the underlying brain structures involved in each step, the cognitive concepts (using the correct terminology), what various theories

might suggest if applicable, etc. Essentially, apply and appreciate all that goes into behaviors you often take for granted. Each paper should be approximately 4 pages, double-spaced with normal fonts and margins.

Extra Credit

You can earn up to 10 extra credit points (weighted as 3% of your final grade) by summarizing and reflecting on an episode from RadioLab, a unique program that explores interesting topics from a variety of perspectives including psychology. The website is: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab>

Unfortunately, their website is not very easy to search, so pick ONE of the following episodes and then just google “Radiolab [name of episode]”:

Season 1 - Who am I; Season 2- Musical Language; Season 2 – Where am I; Season 3: Memory & Forgetting; Season 5 – Choice; Season 8 – Words; Season 10 – When Brains Attack; Season 11 – Inner Voices

After you listen to this episode write a 2-3 page, double-spaced paper that addresses the following:

1. Summarize the main idea(s) covered in the episode: What was the theme? What were the main things you learned about the topic?
2. Relate some part of this to the material you have learned in the course. What is something that you learned in the course that deepened your understanding of what you heard in this episode?

Grading

	A = 92-100%	A- = 90-91%
B+ = 88-89%	B = 82-87%	B- = 80-81%
C+ = 78-79%	C = 72-76%	C- = 70-71%
D+ = 68-69%	D = 62-66%	D- = 60-61%
E = 59% or below		

****If needed a curve will be applied to the course****

A = 20% B = 30% C = 40% D/E = 10%

In the event that less than 20% of the students earn A’s, this curve will be applied. **I will only curve up and never down.** This means that a curve, if applied, will only help your score.

Additional Course Policies

Special Accommodations

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request.

You can contact SSD by phone: 801-626-6413 or email: ssd@weber.edu

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, nor is it tolerated anywhere at Weber. If you are caught you will be immediately reported to the Dean of Students which could result in your expulsion from the university.

Emergency Closure Policy

If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will continue with our class via Zoom, email and CANVAS. Look for announcements on Weber e-mail. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	8/24	Intro to the course		
	8/26	Foundations of Cog Psych Neural Basis of Cognition	Ch. 1 Ch. 2	Chapter 1 Quiz
2	8/31	Neural Basis of Cognition	Ch. 2	Chapter 2 Quiz
	9/2	Visual Perception	Ch. 3	
3	9/7	No class		
	9/9	Visual Perception	Ch. 3	Chapter 3 Quiz
4	9/14	Recognizing Objects	Ch. 4	
	9/16	Recognizing Objects	Ch. 4	Chapter 4 Quiz
Exam 1 – open Weds. 9/16 after class through Sun. 9/20				
5	9/21	Attention	Ch. 5	
	9/23	Attention	Ch. 5	Chapter 5 Quiz
6	9/28	Working Memory & Memory Acquisition	Ch. 6	
	9/30	Working Memory & Memory Acquisition	Ch. 6	Chapter 6 Quiz
7	10/5	Acquisition & Retrieval	Ch. 7	
	10/7	Acquisition & Retrieval	Ch. 7	Chapter 7 Quiz
8	10/12	Memory for Complex Events	Ch. 8	
	10/14	Memory for Complex Events	Ch. 8	Chapter 8 Quiz Paper #1 Due
Exam 2 – open Weds. 10/14 after class through Sun. 10/18				
9	10/19	Concepts and Knowledge	Ch. 9	
	10/21	Concepts and Knowledge	Ch. 9	Chapter 9 Quiz
10	10/26	Language	Ch. 10	
	10/28	Language	Ch. 10	Chapter 10 Quiz
11	11/2	Visual Knowledge	Ch. 11	
	11/4	Visual Knowledge	Ch. 11	Chapter 11 Quiz Paper #2 Due
Exam 3 – open Weds. 11/4 after class through Sun. 11/8				
12	11/9	Judgment and Reasoning	Ch. 12	
	11/11	Judgment and Reasoning	Ch. 12	Chapter 12 Quiz
13	11/16	Problem Solving and Intelligence	Ch. 13	
	11/18	Problem Solving and Intelligence	Ch. 13	Chapter 13 Quiz
14	11/23	Consciousness	Ch. 14	
	11/25	Consciousness	Ch. 14	Chapter 14 Quiz
15	12/2 12/4	No class		STUDY!
16	Finals	Exam #4 – open Weds. through Thursday 12/10 Paper #3 due by 11:59pm Sunday 12/6		