

Cognition

Psy 3500, Spring 2010

T-Th 7:30a-8:45a, Social and Behavioral Science 323

Heather Chapman, heatherchapman@weber.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Text: Cognitive Psychology, 3rd Edition, E. Bruce Goldstein

Course Overview:

The purpose of the course is to gain an understanding of the basic principles associated with human cognition. Specifically, an attempt will be made to explain a little about how we think and learn on a daily basis.

In its most basic form, this course will guide you in an exploration of what is known about cognitive psychology, how it was discovered, and what is still left to be discovered.

The course has been organized into three parts: attention and perception, memory, and higher-level processing. This organization moves from the external environment through the memory structures of the brain and back out again as the thoughts in your head.

Course Requirements:

Blackboard: All tests and assignments will be submitted through use of Blackboard using the University browser: <https://online.weber.edu/>

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Weekly Points of Discussion (5pts each x 12 weeks)

Due Date: Thursday by 5pm each week

Each week students will be required to submit one question or comment about the readings for that week. This question or comment will be due the day before class in order to allow the instructor time to integrate them into the lecture each week.

Questions and comments are meant to address areas of struggle with the readings, concerns about the content, or interesting questions or comments the topic being covered calls to mind. Students will be allowed to miss **one (1)** Point of Discussion (POD) during the course of the semester without penalty. Late PODs within the first week after the due date will result in a one (1) point penalty. After this time, no late work will be accepted.

Weekly Lab Assignment (10pts each x 12 weeks)

Due Date: Thursday by 5pm each week

Each student will be required to participate in weekly lab exercises designed to illustrate the concepts being covered in class. These labs will be accessed via the CogLab CD and access code that comes with each book. A group ID and password are set up (see below). Students will use this group ID in order that all class data is logged in the same area. This allows the instructor to determine which students are completing the labs, as well as allows students to compare results. For each lab, students will be asked to answer a few short questions describing their experience with the lab task.

To access the labs, go to the following website:

<http://coglab.wadsworth.com>

Once there, follow the instructions for setting up a new account. Instructions are found on the Blackboard course site (Instructions for Getting Started with CogLab).

Group ID: Cognition_HJC

Password: cogiscool

Once you have created an account, select the appropriate lab from the CogLab homepage. Read the instructions and complete the lab. When asked whether or not you want to save your data to the set of global data, ALWAYS respond YES. This is how you will get credit for the labs. If your attempt is not recorded to the global data, the instructor will not know that you completed the task.

After completing the lab on CogLab, students will need to go to the Blackboard course site, download the assignment corresponding to the lab, answer the questions, and copy and paste or upload the answers to the Assignments link for credit. A schedule of labs to complete is at the end of the syllabus. Students are allowed to miss **one (1)** lab during the semester without penalty. Labs should take an average of 15-30 minutes to complete, so please plan accordingly. Late labs within the first week after the due date will result in a two (2) point penalty. After this time, no late work will be accepted.

Content Exams (75 pts each)

Approximate Exam Dates: February 3-7, March 10-21, April 18-22

There will be three (3) exams. These exams will cover the three main focuses of the course (attention/perception, memory, problem solving) and will be given approximately every five weeks. **This is an approximation!** Exact dates for each exam will be determined dependent upon the flow of class discussions, and may be pushed back in order to allow appropriate coverage of material. Exams will not be comprehensive, but some material from previous sections may show up on a later test depending on how much new information relates to old. If this is the case, the old material will be presented as a link to current material.

Test format will be as follows:

20 multiple choice questions – 2 pts each

3 short-answer/matching questions – 5 pts each

2 essay questions – 10 pts each

Total: 75 pts each exam

Tests will be given using Chi Tester. Students will be allowed one (1) week to complete exams. Exams will open Thursdays after class and close the following Monday at 7pm. No retakes of exams will be allowed except in the most extreme cases (i.e. death or serious illness to you or your immediate family, jury duty, etc).

Final Project (125 pts total)

Each student will be required to write a research paper related to a topic in cognitive psychology. Any topic within the textbook is a valid topic for investigation. This paper will consist of three (3) separate assignments that will be due at different times throughout the semester.

Final Project, Assignment 1: Outline and List of References with Quotes and Explanation (25 pts)

Due Date: Feb 24

The first assignment for the final project will consist of two parts: an outline and a list of references with quotes and explanations. These two parts may be combined into one paper or two, but both pieces must be present.

Part I—Outline:

Each student will be required to think through the organization of their final paper and present that organization in an outline format. The outline should be used as an organizational map for the completion of the final project. Students should think very carefully about this outline, as once it is turned in, it will be considered as a ‘writing contract’ by the instructor. More specifically, the organization of the final paper will be compared for consistency with the original outline.

Each outline should have 3 main headings, broken down further into subheadings. The 3 main headings should be *Introduction, Body, and Conclusion*.

Part II—List of References with Quotes and Explanations:

Each student will be required to turn in an extended reference list. This reference list will be much like an annotated bibliography, but with more detail. The reference list will consist of **at least 6 references, not including the text**. Three things will be expected:

1. Each reference should be written out using correct APA format.
2. Beneath each reference the student will be expected to explain in a paragraph why this reference is relevant to the proposal, and which section of the proposal the reference will be used in.
3. For each reference, the student is required to pull out 2 possible quotes for use in the proposal. These quotes should be typed up using proper APA format and proper referencing. In other words, the quote should be written as if it were a part of a research paper and not a bibliography.

Final Project Assignment 2: Problem Statement (25 pts)

Length: 1-1.5 pages

Due Date: Mar 24

The hardest two parts of any research paper are determining what the logic and flow will be and writing a competent introduction. This assignment focuses on the first page to page and a half of the final paper and represents the most critical part of the report. The

flow for the entire report follows from this statement. Clear problem statements make the final report that much easier to write.

Each student will be required to use the material from the outline to write up a problem statement. This problem statement will act as a contract for the final report. The flow of the problem statement should mimic the flow of the research paper, and should follow a “if A then B then C” logic. This will be explained more in class. Problem statements will be critiqued on logic (13 pts) and clarity (12 pts) of topic introduced.

Final Project Assignment 3: Research Paper (75 pts)

Length: 7 pages

Due Date: Apr 14

The purpose of the research paper will be to write an in-depth investigation into one of the topics covered in the book. The paper should investigate the history of the topic, as well as the relevance and importance of the topic to cognitive psychology or to psychology and human behavior as a whole. The format followed for this paper should be as follows:

- Introduction/Problem Statement (1-2 pages)
- Body of the Report (5-7 pages)
- Discussion/Conclusion (1-2 pages)
- References (at least 6, not including the text)

The paper should use proper APA formatting, and should follow the organization of the outline and problem statement submitted early in the semester. The final report will be graded as follows:

- Organization and Flow (15 pts)
- Clarity of Writing (25 pts)
- Relevance of material presented (25 pts)
- Correct APA format of reference page and citing within the text (10 pts)

Examples of each of the three parts of this assignment will be provided during the semester.

Points Breakdown

Weekly Points of Discussion	60 pts
Weekly Lab Exercises	120 pts
Three Exams (75 pts each)	225 pts
Final Project (125 pts total)	
Outline/Reference List	25 pts
Problem Statement	25 pts
Research Paper	75 pts
Total	530 points

Grading Scale:

A	93-100%	C	73-75%
A-	89-92%	C-	69-72%
B+	86-88%	D+	66-68%
B	83-85%	D	62-65%
B-	79-82%	F	Below 62%
C+	76-78%		

Extra Credit Opportunity (up to 10 pts):

The field of psychology is continually evolving. More and more is being discovered on a daily basis as tools improve and technology advances. To encourage awareness of the world around you, each student is offered the opportunity to share any current news related to the topics we will be discussing in class. These current event clips can come in the form of articles read or television shows watched. Each extra credit article or link that is shared is worth **one (1)** point. To get the extra credit point, the student should write up a half-page summary of the event. This summary should include where the event was found (magazine found in, or program watched) as well as what the main ideas were. Give me enough information that I could find the article/program if I wanted to.

Contacting the Instructor:

If at any point any student has questions or problems during the course of the semester, please feel free to contact the instructor. Use of the Blackboard email system as the initial contact point for the instructor is recommended. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response. If for some reason you don't receive a response from me through Blackboard, my e-mail address is always an option, but please out of courtesy, use Blackboard first. This assures that your email will not go unnoticed or get misplaced in the day-to-day shuffle of emails.

Changes in Course Assignments and Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust course readings, assignments, and test dates to best attain the objectives of the course. Any changes will be announced in class.

Academic Integrity and Honesty Policy:

Any academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student is caught engaged in academic dishonesty in this course, he or she risks failing the course and being subject to academic discipline including the imposition of university sanctions. For more information, please see the university policy on cheating, which can be found in the WSU Student Code, Section IV, Part D, Paragraph 2.

Course Calendar:

Week	Dates	Topics	Chapters
1	1/4-1/6	Introduction, Biology of Cognition	Ch1, Ch2 POD1, Lab1
2	1/11-1/13	Perception, Consciousness	Ch2, Ch3 POD2, Lab2
3	1/18-1/20	Pattern Recognition	Ch3, Ch4 POD3, Lab3
4	1/25-1/27	Attention	Ch4 POD4, Lab4
5	2/1-2/3	Emotion, Exam 1 Review	POD5, Lab5
6	2/8-2/10	Modal Model/Working Memory	Ch5, <i>Miller</i> POD6, Lab6
7	2/15-2/17	Long-Term Memory, Memory Structure	Ch5, Ch6 <i>Mariner, Identity</i> POD7, Lab7
8	2/22-2/24	Network Models, Memory Structure	Ch6, Ch7 POD8, Lab8, Outline
9	3/1-3/3	Recall and Forgetting	Ch7, Ch8 <i>Schacter</i> POD9, Lab9
10	3/8-3/10	Representations of Knowledge, Exam 2 Review	Ch8, Ch9 POD10, Lab10
11	3/15-3/17	NO CLASS--SPRING BREAK	
12	3/22-3/24	Expertise	<i>Bloom</i> POD11, Lab11, Prob Statement
13	3/29-3/31	Problem Solving, Decision Making	Ch12, Ch13 POD12, Lab12
14	4/5-4/7	Metacognition	Ch13, <i>VanGelder</i> POD13, Lab13
15	4/12-4/14	Artificial Intelligence, Exam 3 Review	<i>outside reading,</i> Final Project
16	4/19-4/21	Finals Week, Exam 3	

Articles listed in readings section can be found on the Blackboard course page.

Lab Schedule:

Lab	Due Date	Topics	Corresponding Book Chapter
1	Jan 6	Perception: Signal Detection	Ch 3
2	Jan 13	Perception: Visual Search	Ch 3
3	Jan 20	Attention: Attentional Blink	Ch 4
4	Jan 27	STM: Sternberg Search	Ch 5
5	Feb 3	Working Memory: Memory Span	Ch 5
6	Feb 10	Memory Processes: Serial Position	Ch 6, Ch 7
7	Feb 17	Memory Processes: Levels of Processing	Ch 6, Ch 7
8	Feb 24	Memory Processes: Encoding Specificity	Ch 6, Ch 7
9	Mar 3	Metamemory: Remember-Know	Ch 8, Ch 9
10	Mar 10	Concepts: Prototypes	Ch 9
11	Mar 24	Attention: Stroop Effect	Ch 12 (Expertise)
12	Apr 7	Judgment: Typical Reasoning	Ch 13
13	Apr 14	Judgment: Risky Decisions	Ch 13