

Cognitive Psychology - PSY 350-001

Fall 2012

TR: 12:30 – 1:45

Henderson – 207

Instructor: Dr. Benton H. Pierce

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Office Hrs: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00 pm, or by appointment

Course Overview:

This course will focus on human cognition, which employs the scientific method to answer fundamental questions about how the mind works. In this course, we will examine the topics of perception, attention, consciousness, memory, imagery, knowledge representation, language, problem solving, reasoning, and other selected aspects. We will also pay considerable attention to the techniques that are used in studying cognitive processes, including discussions of various studies that relate cognition to brain function.

Class Materials:

Text: Robinson-Riegler, G., & Robinson-Riegler, B. (2012). *Cognitive Psychology* (3rd edition). Boston, MA. Allyn and Bacon.

In this class, you will be provided with supplemental resources through the eCollege system that will help you learn this material more effectively. The most important resources are outlines for each lecture that you can download and print out to bring to class.

Lecture Outlines: In the eCollege system (under Document Sharing), you will find a series of MS Word files that contain the lecture outlines for each chapter. Students have found that having access to these outlines is beneficial in several ways. When they have the outline in hand for the lecture it enables them to discern the organization of the lecture and it helps them to organize their notes. These outlines are also a valuable study tool when it comes time to study for the test. Because many important terms and definitions are provided on the outline, students find that it is easier to keep up with the lectures. I **strongly recommend** that you download the outlines for each

chapter and bring them to class.

Evaluation:

There will be two multiple choice exams during the semester, plus a multiple choice final exam, which will cover the last four chapters of the book. Each of these three exams will account for 30% of your grade. The remaining 10% of your grade will come from your performance on a series of short, weekly quizzes. These quizzes will be given at the end of class, and will be cover the chapter that will have just finished. There will be no make-ups on these quizzes under any circumstances.

Grading System: A = 90% - 100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = Less than 60%

Examination Policy:

Exams **must** be taken at the time indicated on the syllabus. Missed exams can only be made up if the student provides documentation of a legitimate University-approved excuse (e.g., medical emergency) within a week of the missed exam. When discussing exams, it is necessary (unfortunately) to mention the subject of cheating. Cheating and plagiarism of all forms will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, please see me. As the Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct says "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment."

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Halladay Student Services Building
Room 303 A/D
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Attendance Policy:

I do not take role. Please keep in mind, however, that there may be material on the exams that is either not covered in the textbook or that I will cover in lecture in greater depth than what the textbook does. In addition, there will be various classroom demonstrations that will greatly assist your understanding of some of the concepts in this field. Finally, missing class on the day we are having a quiz will prevent you from earning points on that quiz. In other words, **you need to come to class.**

Electronic-Devices Usage Policy. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices (PDAs, Ipods, MP3 players, Walkmans, PSPs, Gameboys, etc. and put them out of sight **BEFORE** entering class:

- a. This does not mean to turn your phone on “silent” or “vibrate”.
- b. You may not receive a call during class (even if you excuse yourself), you may not check to see if you have received a call, and you may not text-message.
- c. Your laptop may be used only to take notes, not to “surf” during class.

Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Topic	Chapter
Aug. 28	Introduction	1
Aug. 30	History, Emergence of Cognitive Psychology	1
Sept. 4	Models of Cognition, Cognitive Neuroscience, and Current Trends	1
Sept. 6	Perception and Consciousness	2
Sept. 11	Perception and Consciousness	2
Sept. 13	Mechanisms of Attention	3
Sept. 18	Mechanisms of Attention	3
Sept. 20	Immediate Memory	4
Sept. 25	Immediate Memory	4
Sept. 27	Exam I	All of the above
Oct. 2	Identification & Classification	5
Oct. 4	Identification and Classification	5
Oct. 9	Long-Term Memory – Encoding and Retrieving Information	6
Oct. 11	Long-Term Memory – Encoding and Retrieving Information	6
Oct. 16	Autobiographical Memory	7
Oct. 18	Autobiographical Memory	7

Oct. 23	The Malleability of Memory	8
Oct. 25	No class	
Oct. 30	The Malleability of Memory	8
Nov. 1	Exam II	All since Exam I
Nov. 6	Language: Basic Issues and Speech Processing	9
Nov. 8	Language: Basic Issues and Speech Processing	9
Nov. 13	Language: Reading and Text Comprehension	10
Nov. 15	No class	
Nov. 20	Judgment and Decision Making	11
Nov. 22	No class (Thanksgiving holiday)	
Nov. 27	Judgment and Decision Making	11
Nov. 29	Problem Solving	12
Dec. 4	Problem Solving	12
Dec. 6	To be announced	
To be Announced	Final Exam	All since Exam II