



PSY 305.01 Introduction to Cognition
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014

Instructor: Jane Bednarz
Class Location: Field House 102
Class Times: MW 11:00am-12:15pm
Office Location: Binnion 224
Office Hours: MWF 1:00pm-4:00pm, and by appointment
Email Address: jbednarz@leomail.tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: In this course we will cover the fundamental theories and research conducted in the field of cognitive psychology. We will cover both classic and modern psychological research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

****Note: Class attendance is not required, therefore a lack of attendance will not result in point deduction from your grade. HOWEVER, class attendance is strongly recommended given that certain class materials (which could, and most likely will, show up on assessments) will ONLY be available in class. Missing class will not be an acceptable excuse for missing questions on an assessment.****

Where Will Your Grade Come From?

- A) 2 Homework Assignments (Total = 50 points)
- B) 10 Quizzes (Total = 100 points)
- C) 4 Non-cumulative Exams, Including the Final Exam (Total: 400 points)

Your overall grade is based on a point system, with a maximum of 550 possible points. The letter grades are assigned as follows:

A = 550-500pts. **B** = 499-450pts. **C** = 449-400pts. **D** = 399-350pts. **F** = 349pts. or Less

What is the format of the homework assignments and the assessments?

- A) Homework assignments (worth 25 points each) consist of completing a two-page article summary at two points in the semester. You are expected to read the assigned article and write up a summary describing the various parts of the article

(the introduction, any experiments included in the article, and the conclusions and future directions indicated in the article, as well as any personal insights regarding the article). Your article summary is expected to be typed and submitted to the dropbox on Ecollege by 11:59pm of the due date. Late assignments and hand-written assignments will not be accepted.

- Article summary #1 due on: 9/17- Strayer et. al (2007)
- Article summary #2 due on: 11/5

- B) Each quiz will be comprised of 10 multiple-choice questions (each question worth 1 point) based on the book materials and class materials covering that week's chapter. For example, on 8/29 we will have our first quiz, which will cover only Chapter 1. Our second quiz on 9/5 will cover only Chapter 2, and so on and so forth.
- C) Each exam will be comprised of 40 multiple-choice questions (each question worth 2 points) and 2 short answer questions (each question worth 10 points) based on the book materials and class materials covering the past three chapters. For example, on 9/19 we will have our first exam, which will cover Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

** All quizzes and tests will be available for completion on Ecollege from 12:00am-11:59pm Friday. You will have 15 min. to complete each quiz and 60 min. to complete each exam. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from taking an exam or quiz on the date that it is available, you need to contact me by the following Monday in order to make arrangements to take the missed assessment. If I do not hear from you by that time, you WILL NOT be able to make up the assessment, and will be given a grade of ZERO for that assessment. **

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

What can YOU expect from ME?

My office hours are listed above, but I am relatively flexible if you need to meet outside of those times, I simply request that you email me ahead of time. I will do my very best to have your assignments or assessments graded by the next class period. If you have any questions at any point during the class, please feel free to ask.

I want you all to succeed and will do my best to make sure that happens, you just need to be willing to put in the required effort.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Student Behavior:

My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) To

remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one's own)!

Changes to Class:

Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced on eCollege or in class.

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
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Week Starting: (15 weeks, plus finals week)

8/25	Ch. 1	A Brief History and Introduction	Quiz Friday
9/1	Ch. 2	Perception and Consciousness	Quiz Friday
9/8	Ch. 3	Mechanisms of Attention	No Quiz Friday
9/15	Ch. 3 cont.	Mechanisms of Attention	Exam Friday
9/22	Ch. 4	Immediate Memory	Quiz Friday
9/29	Ch. 5	Objects and Concepts	Quiz Friday
10/6	Ch. 6	Basic Processes in LTM	Exam Friday

10/13	Ch. 7	Autobiographical Memory	Quiz Friday
10/20	Ch. 8	Malleability in Memory	Quiz Friday
10/27	Ch. 8 cont.	Eyewitness Memory	Exam Friday
11/3	Ch. 9	Language I	Quiz Friday
11/10	Ch. 10	Language II	Quiz Friday
11/17	Ch. 11	Judgments and Decisions	Quiz Friday
11/24	Ch. 12	Problems and Goals	Thanksgiving - No Quiz Friday
12/1	Ch. 12 cont.	Problems and Goals	Last Day of Classes - Quiz Friday
12/8	STUDY!	Finals Week	Final Exam TBA