

Spring 2015
Syllabus Draft

PSY 350: Cognitive Psychology



Shulan Lu, Ph.D.

Selected Policy Highlights

NO late work will be accepted.

NO cheating will be tolerated.

RESPECT your peers.

RESPECT your professor.

NO makeup exam except emergency as described.

Respond to class communication.

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Why does this course exist? Course Aims and Outcomes

Cognition is extraordinarily central in every human's daily life.

Cognitive approach has widespread influence on other areas of psychology.

Your mind is an impressively sophisticated piece of equipment. As the owner of this equipment, do you want to check out *user's manual* as you would do with your favorite gadgets?

An overview of cognitive psychology as science: basic concepts and theories, research methods, and applications in real world.

- Perception, Attention, & Consciousness
- Working memory, & Long-term Memory
- Memory strategies
- Mental Imagery & Cognitive Maps

- Knowledge representation
- Language
- Problem Solving & Creativity
- Reasoning and Decision Making
- Cognitive Development

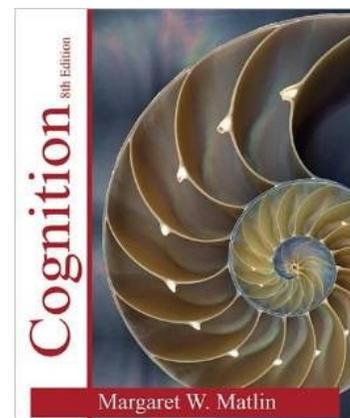


User Manual

Required Materials

1. Matlin, M. (8th Ed). Cognition. Wiley.

It is considered the *most readable undergraduate cognition textbook*. I cannot emphasize enough of the importance that you **consult with your user's manual**, the textbook.



Required Materials Continued

2. Fast and reliable Internet Connection.

3. Study Time.

This is a 3 credit hour class. You should prepare to spend at least 6 hours of study time per week. Individuals vary in the amount of time they need.

4. Good computer.



“Whilst part of what we perceive comes through our senses from the object before us, another part (and it may be the larger part) always comes out of our own mind.”

[William James, *The Principles of Psychology*](#)

Grade Evaluation 1: Learning Engagement Quizzes

It is assumed that you will attend and actively participate during all class activities.

This class will employ active learning strategies by having you quiz yourself.

Plan to complete a quiz on Tues and Thurs respectively.

Each of them will cover the different parts of a topic under discussion.

Splitting a topic into

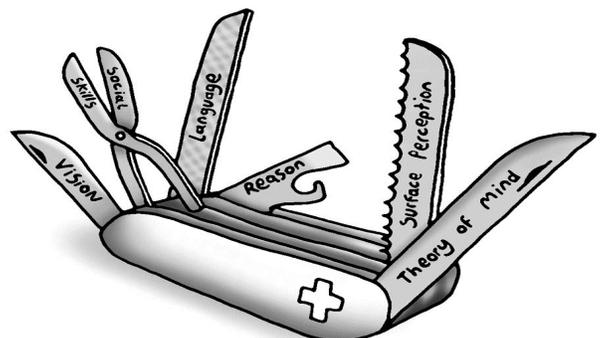
chunks will reduce your workload each time and make it more manageable / memorable.

You will earn credit for every quiz on which you score a 60% or better (i.e., they are treated as pass / fail).

Grade Evaluation 2: Assignments

Many of the assignments will be experiencing the well known experiments as participants and answer questions.

Plan to complete the work by the end of each week.

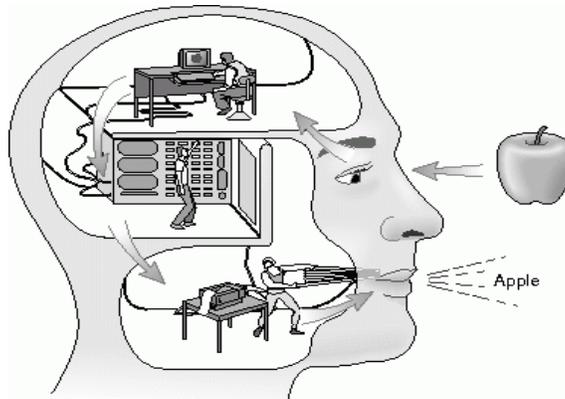


Mind as Swiss army knife

Grade Evaluation 3: Multiple-choice Exams

The material covered by the exams will not be cumulative, but will include only the material covered in the preceding part of the course.

The questions will be based on the text and lecture materials posted in eCollege.



Mind as computer information processing

Coursework Policy

All quizzes and exams are to be *taken closed-book*.

You are not allowed to take any quiz, exam or submit an assignment after its respective deadline, unless you notify me

of extenuating circumstances and **I give permission in advance.**

In case of **unforeseen medical emergency**, contact me or Dept ASAP. When *official documentation* is pro-

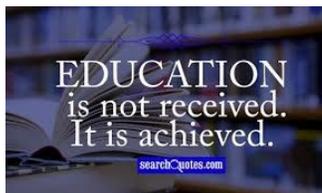
vided, you can do a make-up.

No incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that find satisfactory, it is *your responsibility to drop it*.

"Every act of perception, is to some degree an act of creation, and every act of memory is to some degree an act of imagination."

Oliver Sacks, Musicophilia: La musique, le cerveau et nous

Other Important Basics



Let's achieve it!

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets

underway. I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class.

Please check your course at least once a day.

Dishonesty (broadly defined) is not allowed. This means that *neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated*.

Students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct.

Other Important Basics

The university likes me to say: **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”** (See **Student’s Guide Handbook**).

Examples of academic dishonesty:

Collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing assignments.

Using, *during any academic exercise*, material and/or devices not authorized by the person in charge of the test;

Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in its entirety or in part, the contents of a test or other assignment unauthorized for release;

Substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for oneself.

Success is based on accomplishment, not effort — but no accomplishment is attained ever without effort.

Accommodations for 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

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Oliver Sacks, Musicophilia: La musique, le cerveau et nous

Inclusivity Statement



It’s just better when we are all together.

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online

courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an envi-

ronment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.



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Netiquette: Communication Courtesy Code

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please take a moment and read the following link concerning "netiquette".

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

Participating in the virtual realm, including social media sites and shared-access sites sometimes used for educational collaborations, should be done with honor and integrity:

<http://ctl.t.ubc.ca/distance-learning/learner-support/communicating-online-netiquette/>

Disclaimer:

While I make every effort to abide by the information presented in this syllabus, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 Wk1 12 pts	19	20 1st Class Assignment Ch 1	21	22 Extra Credit (Required)	23	24 Assignment
25 Wk2 16 pts	26 Ch 1	27 Quiz	28	29 Quiz	30	31 .Assignment

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Wk3 16 pts	2 Perception 1 Ch 2	3 Object Rec Quiz	4	5 Face, Speech Quiz	6	7 Assignment
8 Wk4 16 pts	9 Perception 2 Ch 3	10 Attn Quiz	11	12 Conscious- ness Quiz	13	14 Assignment
15 Wk5 106 pts	16 WM Ch 4	17 Classic STM Quiz	18	19 WM Quiz	20 Exam 1	21 Extra Credit Due
22 Wk6 16 pts	23 LTM Ch 5	24 Encoding Quiz	25	26 Retrieval Quiz	27	28 Assignment

MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Wk7 16 pts	2 Ch 5 Ch 6	3 Autobiog- Mem Quiz	4	5 Mem Strate- gy Quiz	6	7 Assignment
8 Wk8 16 pts	9 Imagery, Maps Ch 7	10 Imagery Quiz	11	12 Cog Maps Quiz	13 Assignment	14
15 wk9	16 Spring break	17 Spring break	18 Spring break	19 Spring break	20 Spring break	21
22 Wk10 16 pts	23 Knowledge Ch8	24 Semantic Mem Quiz	25	26 Schema Scripts Quiz	27	28 Assignment
29 Wk11 106 pts	30 Language 1	31 Nature of Lang Quiz				

APRIL 2015

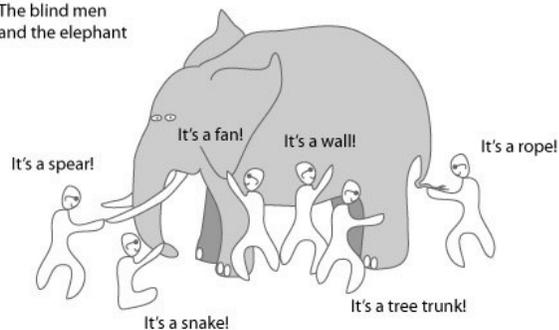
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
wk11			1	2 Reading Discourse Quiz	3 Exam 2	4 Extra Credit Due
5 Wk12 16 pts	6 Language 2 Ch 10	7 Speaking Writing Quiz	8	9 Bilingualism Quiz	10	11 Assignment
12 Wk13 16 pts	13 Ch 11	14 Problem solving Quiz	15	16 Creativity Quiz	17	18 Assignment
19 Wk14 16 pts	20 Ch 12	21 Reasoning Quiz	22	23 Decision Quiz	24	25 Assignment
26 Wk15 16 pts	27 Ch 13	28 Life span mem Quiz	29	30 Lang Dev Quiz		

MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						2 Assignment
3 Wk16 100 pts	4 Review	5 Extra Credit (Required)	6	7 Exam 3	8 Class Ends	9

How mind works?

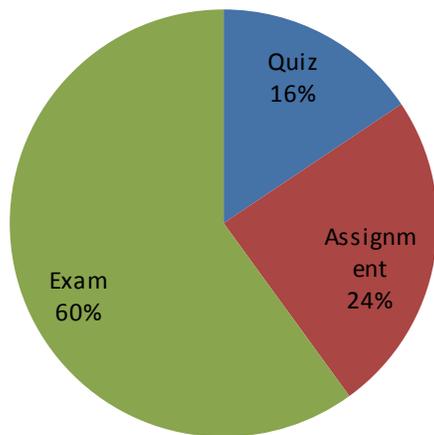
The blind men and the elephant



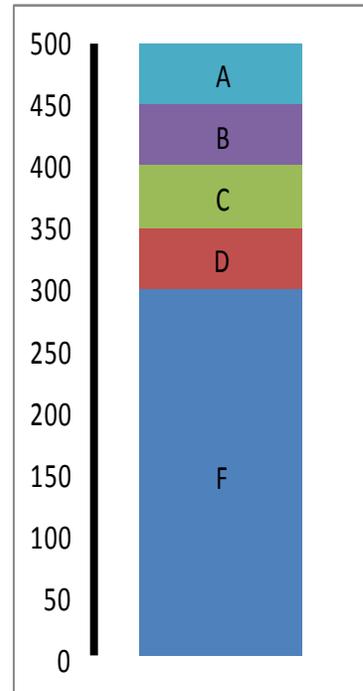
Tentative Schedule Notes:

The weekly total grade point overview illustrated under Sunday of each week does not include extra credit assignments.

Grade Evaluation: Point Distribution



Grading



Notes: (approximately)

Each quiz: 3pts

Each assignment starting week 2: 10 pts

Each exam: 100 pts