

PSY 350
Cognitive Psychology
Fall, 2015
Shulan Lu, Ph.D.

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS (DRAFT)

Lecture times: MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
Lecture room: Henderson 206

Office: Henderson 218
Office hour: TBA
Contact: (903)468-8628; shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

Course Description

Cognition is extraordinarily central in every human's life. Cognitive approach has widespread influence on all 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?

This course offers an overview of cognitive psychology: basic concepts and theories, research methods, and applications in the real world.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to appreciate the metaphors and the approaches to the scientific understanding of human mind.
2. Students will be able to appreciate and to some extent follow the conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to how cognitive psychologists communicate about the scientific study of human mind.
3. Students will gain an overview of how psychologists test, interpret, and demonstrate concepts, theories and principles in empirical data.

Course Materials

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

This book is considered as the *most readable undergraduate cognition textbook*. Before and after each class, at the very least please spend 5-10 minutes looking over Chap preview and **section summary**. The section summary instead of chapter summary offered by this book is a great learning tool. Also you are expected to complete demonstration activities in the textbook prior to the class. This will be your class ticket.

Additional references:

1. Supplementary materials provided by instructor.

Grade Evaluation

Learning Engagement: Below are a few basic elements that go into learning engagement.

1. Maintain good attendance. At the maximum, you can miss 4 classes. While anyone can be late on rare occasions, habitual lateness is unacceptable. Also once in class, be prepared to stay for the entire class period.
If you must miss class you are responsible for what transpires during class sessions whether you are there or not.
2. Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views.
3. Cell phones or laptops can only be used when it is Socratic time.
4. Socratic time: This class will employ active learning strategies via the use of in-class socratic questions. Please download Socratic at your mobile phone or laptop. These socratic questions may be used to assess your understanding of material presented on that day of class or your memory for information presented in previous classes. **If you forget to bring the app device or if your batteries are dead, you cannot obtain credit for that day of class.**

Disruptive behavior or disrespect toward other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. At the very least, it will cost a letter grade, and is subject to further penalty.

Learning Engagement Total: 50 points

Exams: There are three exams. **There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations.** If for some REAL emergency you must miss an exam, make sure that you contact me BEFORE the exam. When **official documentation** is provided, you can do a make-up.

Exam Total: 3 x 100 points = 300 points

Worksheets and Quizzes: You will be asked to experience some of the well-known experiments as participants and answer questions in the worksheets. There will be also some quizzes. **There is no makeup for an in-class quiz.**

Worksheets: 150 points

Research Participation: To gain a greater understanding of the research process, exposure to research is a course requirement. You can meet this requirement by participating in research studies and/or summarizing research articles found in PSYC Info published within the past five years. Some students choose to do a combination of these (e.g., participate in three research hours and summarize three research articles). The department research system has set up the following requirement: Students must participate in 6 hours of research studies. If you show up for ALL of the research studies on time, you only need to complete 4 hours of research studies. Half of the studies can be done online. If you choose to summarize research articles instead, each summarized

article counts as 1 research-hour credit. Article summaries need to be emailed to Dr. Shulan Lu. ** The research exposure requirement is due Dec 3**

Research Participation: Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in one-grade step deduction (e.g., if you have an A in the course and do not fulfill the research exposure requirement, you will receive a B in the course).

To be on the safe side, assume that I grade on a numerical scale. However, I reserve the right to reward exemplary attendance and participation.

A = 450-500 pts

B = 400-449 pts

C = 350-399 pts

D = 300-349 pts

F < 300 pts

Coursework Policy:

All quizzes and exams are to be *taken closed-book*. You are not allowed to take any quiz, exam, or submit any assignment after its respective deadline unless you notify me of extenuating circumstance and I give permission in advance.

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

Student Conduct in General:

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.

The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that *dishonesty (broadly defined)* is not allowed. If you have any questions about what constitutes dishonesty, please see me.

Or, as 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).

Academic Honesty:

Unless authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including quizzes, assignments and exams, without assistance from any source.

You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course.

Students who violate academic integrity may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

Contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

Disability:

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:

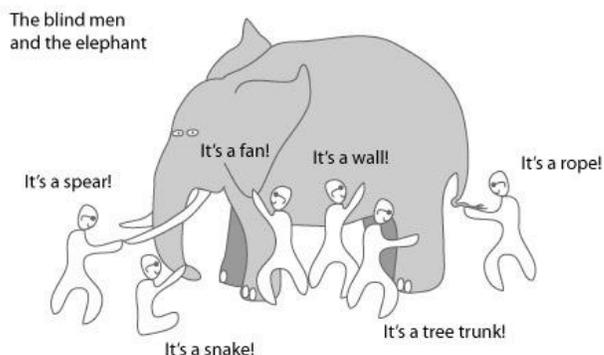
Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Inclusivity Statement:

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

Disclaimer:

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



Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	8/31	Course Organization	Syllabus
	9/2	A Brief History of Cognitive Psychology	Chap 1
	9/4		
2	9/7	Labor Day / No Class	Chap 2
	9/9	Perceptual Processes I	
	9/11		
3	9/14	Perceptual Processes I Continued	Chap 3
	9/16	Perceptual Processes II	
	9/18		
4	9/21	Perceptual Processes II Continued	Chap 4
	9/23	Working Memory	
	9/25	Exam 1 Review	
5	9/28	Exam 1	Chap 1, 2, 3, 4
	9/30	Long-term Memory	
	10/2		
6	10/5	Long-term Memory Continued	Chap 5
	10/7	Memory Strategies and	Chap 6
	10/9	Metacognition	
7	10/12	Mental Imagery and Cognitive Maps	Chap 7
	10/14		
	10/16		
8	10/19	General Knowledge: Semantic Memory	Chap 8
	10/21		
	10/23		
9	10/26	General Knowledge: Schemas and Scripts	Chap 8
	10/28		
	10/30		

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
10	11/2	Exam 2	Chap 5, 6, 7, 8
	11/4 11/6	Language I	Chap 9
11	11/9 11/11 11/13	Language II	Chap 10
12	11/16 11/18 11/20	Problem Solving and Creativity	Chap 11
13	11/23 11/25 11/27	Reasoning and Decision Making Thanksgiving Week TBA	Chap 12
14	11/30 12/2 12/4	Reasoning and Decision Making Continued Cognitive Development	Chap 12 Chap 13
15	12/7 12/9 12/11	Course Closing Statements Exam 3 Review Research Participation Ends Exam 3 (Test Date Subject to Change)	Chap 9-13