



PSY 350: Cognitive Psychology (Spring 2019) COURSE SYLLABUS

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook: *Cognitive Psychology* (2019, 5th edition) by Goldstein

Student Learning Outcomes

1. You will learn about cognitive psychology as an empirical laboratory-based scientific discipline.
2. You will also learn about how to apply some principles of cognitive psychology in order to improve certain aspects of your life (e.g., studying for exams).

Course Description

This course provides an overview of cognitive psychology, which is a laboratory-based science investigating the mental processes that allow us to perceive the world around us, attend to certain parts of it, store information for later retrieval, interact with other human beings through the use of language, and make decisions prior to performing actions. Of course, these processes are not perfect, but rather are quite error-prone. Cognitive psychology has uncovered some of the reasons behind these errors, and has even suggested many solutions and/or short-cuts that can help us avoid some of them.

Although most of what we know about cognitive psychology has arisen from controlled laboratory experiments, it impacts your everyday life in many ways. For example, many airplane crashes are due to cognitive errors on the part of the pilot or air traffic controller. Car accidents are often due to distracted drivers talking or texting on their smart phones or interacting with their GPS systems. Kirk Bloodsworth was positively identified by five eyewitnesses and sentenced to death, but eventually exonerated by DNA evidence. Over 350 individuals in the U.S. have been exonerated based on DNA evidence, and approximately 70% of these were due, at least in part, to mistaken eyewitness identification. We will learn about the cognitive errors that can drive these mistakes leading to miscarriages of justice.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

My goals in this course are to present the laboratory-based foundation on which cognitive psychology is built and to make that information relevant to you through examples. To help you develop an appreciation of the laboratory-based approach, you will read some journal articles that describe experiments. You will leave this class with a good grounding in cognitive psychology, its methods and theoretical outlook, and an ability to capitalize on this knowledge to improve the quality of your mental life (e.g., improved study habits, enhanced memory, the knowledge to make better decisions) as well as understand the cognitive principles that underlie these improvements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes

After completion of each topic, you will be quizzed over that material. There are two reasons for these quizzes. First, they should encourage you to keep on top of the reading, in order to ensure that you do not fall behind in the course. Second, research has shown that repeated testing enhances retention of material. We will make use of this finding in order to increase your performance on exams and to help you remember the information after the course has been completed.

Reading Summaries

For two selected topics, you will be required to submit in D2L a Reading Summary (as a Word document: .doc or .docx) of an article I've posted in D2L for everyone to read. The summary must be 1-2 pages long (single-spaced, max 12-point font, 1-inch margins). Prior to submitting in D2L, be sure your summary is a .doc or .docx file, and label as: "LastNameFirstNameA#" with # designating the assignment number (1-2). Reading summaries will NOT be accepted late unless I give you permission in advance.

Exams

There are three exams. The first exam is worth 18%, the second exam is worth 20%, and the final exam is worth 22% of your overall grade.

Grading

- You will earn credit for every quiz on which you score a 60% or better (i.e., they are treated as pass/fail). There will be 10 quizzes, which add up to be worth 20% of your overall grade (2% each).
- You earn up to 10% of your overall grade for each reading summary completed correctly and submitted on time. There are two readings for a total of 20% of your overall grade.
- There are 3 exams, including the final. The first exam is worth 18%, the second exam is worth 20%, and the final exam is worth 22% of your overall grade.

You need 90% or better for an 'A', 80% or better for a 'B', 70% or better for a 'C', and 60% or better for a 'D'. Below 60% results in an 'F'.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A

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Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

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- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is best to communicate with me via email (curt.carlson@tamuc.edu). I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. Please do not re-send your email unless at least 48 hours have passed since your last email.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

No quizzes, exams, or homework will be accepted after the deadline unless permission is provided in advance of the deadline by the instructor.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

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 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

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Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule is to be used as a guide. It is possible for it to change, but you will be notified via email if it does.

Week	Topic
1/14 - 1/18	Read syllabus, Introduce yourselves in D2L, start Chapter 1
1/21 - 1/25	Finish Chapter 1; Online lecture; Quiz 1
1/28 - 2/1	Chapter 2: Cognitive Neuroscience; Online lecture: Research Methods & Brain; Quiz 2

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2/4 – 2/8	Chapter 3: Perception; Online lecture; Quiz 3; Summary 1
2/11 – 2/15	Chapter 4: Attention; Online lecture; Quiz 4
2/15	EXAM 1: Chapters 1 - 4; Found in Topic 5 in D2L
2/18 – 2/22	Chapter 5: Short Term and Working Memory; Online lecture; Quiz 5
2/25 – 3/1	Chapters 6: Long-Term Memory Structure; Online lecture: Encoding
3/4 – 3/8	Chapter 7: LTM: Encoding, Retrieval, Consolidation; Quiz 6; Summary 2
3/11 – 3/15	SPRING BREAK
3/18 – 3/22	Chapter 8: Everyday Memory & Errors; Online lecture: Retrieval & Eyewitness ID; Quiz 7
3/22	EXAM 2: Chapters 5 - 8; Found in Topic 9
3/25 – 3/29	Chapter 9: Knowledge; Online lecture: Concepts & Storage; Quiz 8
4/1 – 4/5	Chapter 10: Visual Imagery; No quiz or online lecture
4/8 – 4/12	Chapter 11: Language; Online lecture; Quiz 9 ; Steven Pinker online lecture
4/15 – 4/19	Chapter 12: Problem Solving; Online lecture; Quiz 10
4/22 – 4/26	Chapter 13: Judgments and Decision Making; Online lecture
4/29 – 5/3	EXAM 3: Chapters 9 – 13; Found in Topic 13

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