



## PSY 350: Intro to Human Cognition

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2019

01E section: MWF 10:00am-10:50am, Location: Henderson 206

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** David Frank, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology

**Office Location:** Binnion 215

**Office Hours:** Tu, W 3:00-4:00 pm, or by appointment

**Office Phone:** N/A

**Office Fax:** N/A

**University Email Address:** david.frank@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

**Communication Response Time:** 48 hours except on weekdays

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

##### Textbook(s) Required

John R. Anderson (2015), Cognitive Psychology and its implications (8<sup>th</sup> edition)

ISBN: 13: 978-1-319-11668-2

**Readings:** I will provide research articles by cognitive psychologists, and chapters from additional cognitive psychology books.

#### Course Description

This course provides an overview of cognitive psychology. We will investigate topics of perception, attention, consciousness, memory, imagery, knowledge representation, language, problem solving, decision making, and other selected aspects. Emphasis also will be placed on the relationship between mental processes and the brain. In addition, students will learn to appreciate the scientific methods that are developed to investigate these topics.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

1. You will learn how to think more like a scientist, in terms of research methodology and some statistics.
2. You will learn many of the broad topics researched by cognitive psychologists.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

3. You will get some experience with public speaking, via the literature review presentation in front of the class.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

The essential computer skills in modern life: See an example at <http://www.yti.edu/blog/top-four-essential-computer-skills.asp>

You will need to use the D2L Brightspace learning management system, which will host certain components from this course (e.g., gradebook). In addition, you will be expected to use Microsoft Word (or equivalent) and Microsoft PowerPoint (or equivalent).

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will contain a combination of lecture and discussion. Finally, D2L Brightspace will be utilized to host the gradebook and possibly some other functions (e.g., quizzes, providing reading materials).

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

In order to succeed in this course, you will need to attend class regularly and always contribute to discussion in class. Moreover, you will need to do well on quizzes and exams, which may involve accessing D2L Brightspace.

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## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

D = 60%-69%

B = 80%-89%

F = 59% or Below

C = 70%-79%

## Assessments

### Quizzes (20%)

After completion of each topic, you will be quizzed over that material (online in D2L). 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 (i.e., retrieval practice) enhances retention of material. We will make use of this finding in order to help you remember the topics we cover after the course has been completed.

### Exams (40%)

There will be two exams, each short answer and essay-based.

### Discussion of Readings (20%)

Each week there will be empirical research articles or chapters by cognitive psychologists to read and discuss. I will provide these readings. Your responsibility will be to read all of these so that you can actively take part in discussion every week. Also, you will **lead discussion** for some of these readings, to be determined early in the term.

### Literature Review Presentation (20%)

By the end of March, you need to choose an area of cognitive psychology on which to focus your attention for a literature review. I must approve this topic by the end of March. You should read about 6-8 empirical articles or reviews of empirical research from the literature. Your 10-12 minute presentation at the end of the semester should be in the form of PowerPoint or another presentation program. You are expected to have practiced your presentation several times in advance so that you can stick closely to this time limit, just as you would need to at a research conference.

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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
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

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### 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 <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> 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
- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions 8 Mbps is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- 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.
- 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

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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](mailto: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**

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

#### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

You are welcomed to see me before and after class, contact me via email, and schedule an office visit appointment.

If you contact me or a teaching assistant and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received.

Exam grades and feedback on assignments will typically be given within one week, but may take up to two weeks for longer assignments or busier times of the semester.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations or in class assignments (except in cases of military deployment). If you are traveling and representing the university (e.g., band members, athletes, etc.) you need to request accommodations BEFORE an exam is due, not after. Otherwise I drop the lowest exam score and 2 lowest in-class assignments rather than doing make-ups.

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## **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](#).

<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>

### **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>

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## **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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto: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>

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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.

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## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/14	Syllabus and introduction	
	1/16	The Science of Cognition	Ch 1
	1/18	The Science of Cognition	
2	1/21	No Class Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
	1/23	Perception	Ch 2
	1/25	Perception	
3	1/28	Perception	
	1/30	Attention and Performance (Dichotic listening, theories of selection)	Ch 3
	2/1	No Class - First Friday	
4	2/4	Attention and Performance	
	2/6	Discuss	Drews et al., 2008
	2/8	Encoding and Storage	Ch 6
5	2/11	Encoding and Storage (WM lecture)	
	2/13	Discuss	Soderstrom & McCabe, 2011
	2/15	Retention & Retrieval	Ch 7
6	2/18	Retention & Retrieval	
	2/20	Retention & Retrieval (Loftus video)	
	2/22	Discuss	Delaney et al., 2010
7	2/25	Discuss	Talarico & Rubin, 2003
	2/27	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
	3/1	No Class - First Friday	
8	3/4	Problem Solving	Ch 8
	3/6	Problem Solving	
	3/8	Discuss	Thomas & Lleras, 2009
9	3/11	Decision Making	Ch 11
	3/13	Decision Making	
	3/15	Discuss	Johnson & Goldstein, 2003
10	3/18	No Class Spring Break	
	3/20	No Class Spring Break	
	3/22	No Class Spring Break	
11	3/25	Language	Ch 12 & 13
	3/27	Language	
	3/29	Language	<b>Topics Due</b>
12	4/1	Language	
	4/3	Expertise	Ch 9
	4/5	No Class - First Friday	
13	4/8	Expertise	

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	4/10	Discuss	Macnamara et al., 2016 and Ericsson commentary and replies
	4/12	Individual Difference in Cognition (development videos)	Ch 14
14	4/15	Individual Difference in Cognition	
	4/17	Discuss	Pashler et al., 2009
	4/19	Metacognition, Memory strategies, Aging	
15	4/22	Metacognition, Memory strategies, Aging	
	4/24	Metacognition, Memory strategies, Aging	
	4/26	Metacognition, Memory strategies, Aging	
16	4/29	Presentations	
	5/1	Presentations	
	5/3	No Class - First Friday	
17	5/6	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
	5/8		
	5/10		

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