

Psych 3500 – Cognition

Fall Semester 2019

Mon/Weds. 12:30-1:45 LH 106

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Office Hours: Monday 11:30-12:30, Thursday 3-4, & by appointment

Office Location: 382 Lindquist Hall

Office Phone: 801-626-7867

Course Website - CANVAS: <https://weber.instructure.com/login>

Course Description

This course is intended to present a broad introduction to the field of Cognitive Psychology. The course will aim to provide a reasonably deep introduction to several of the key topics and research approaches in the field. The emphases will include visual perception, mental imagery, attention, memory and learning, categorization, language, decision-making, reasoning, problem solving, and consciousness. The course will also cover cognitive neuroscience methods and experimental findings where applicable.

Required Text

Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind, 7th edition by Daniel Reisberg
(the 6th edition is also okay to use)

ZAPS online lab demos: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/cognition7>

Getting the Most out of the Course

In order to get the most out of this course you should come to each class and come prepared. This means that you should do the readings, take notes, and be ready to participate in discussions and activities. I will be posting my lecture slides on the course website (CANVAS) by the night before each lecture. Usually, I will post lectures for the entire week or chapter. To make note-taking much easier in class, one idea is to print these out and bring them with you to class. Please note that you can print out slides in ‘handout’ form that can allow you to have multiple slides printed on one page. Keep in mind that I will be expanding on the slide content during class, and occasionally adding material not in the book - so the posted-lecture slides should NOT be considered sufficient to understand all that will be covered in lecture.

Course Requirements

Exams (50%)

There will be a total of 4 exams given throughout the semester. All of the material from the readings and lectures is fair game on the exams. The EXAMS ARE NOT CUMULATIVE, and thus only consist of material covered since the previous exam. The exams will consist of approximately 80ish multiple choice and a few fill-in-the-blank/short answer questions. The exams will be administered through Weber State's Testing Center using ChiTester. There are a variety of testing center locations, and you will be allowed to take the exam at any of the locations. For a list of the locations and testing center hours go to: <http://www.weber.edu/testingcenter/> You are responsible for knowing the hours of the testing center location you would like to use. To take an exam you must have a valid form of ID (driver's license, student ID) and show up to the testing center on the correct date(s). You will not be allowed to take the exam if you do not have an ID or if you show up after the posted and allowed hours. No make-up exams will be given except in cases of emergency. However, if you know you are going to be out of town for the dates of a posted exam, we can make arrangements for you to take the exam early.

Quizzes (20%)

There will be a total of 10 quizzes given during class. The dates of quizzes are on the class schedule. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will be on material from the lecture and readings that have been covered since the last quiz or exam (they are not cumulative). Quizzes will be given during the first 10 minutes of class, so be sure to come to class on time. Your lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped. No make-up quizzes will be given. However, as is the case with the exams, if you know you are going to be out of town for the date of a posted quiz, we can make arrangements for you to take the quiz early. You will not be allowed to take the quiz after the posted date.

Short Papers (20%)

You will need to complete TWO short papers. You have a few options for these papers. **Option 1:** you need to find an article from the popular press (newspaper, magazine, news story, etc), OR a television show or movie that in some way relates to and discusses some topic within cognitive psychology. Please note, if you pick a television show, it is easier to summarize a single episode rather than an entire series. Each paper should be approximately 4 pages, double-spaced with normal fonts and margins. Article/show choice is key! If you pick something that is not very applicable, this assignment will be quite difficult. For each paper, you need to summarize the article/show/movie (approx. 1-2 page max). The summary portion is more for me to have a sense of the topic. The bulk of the paper should be a discussion of the cognitive psychological principles/concepts, theories (using accurate terminology from a cognitive psychologist's perspective) the report/show is discussing? You need to accurately label the topic/concept, and discuss how, exactly, it is portrayed. You can also discuss the topic/concept more broadly than does the article/show (i.e., what else do you know about it given what you've learned in class). Are any of the statements/claims controversial given what you/cognitive psychologists know, if so, why is this a controversial claim? Are there any relevant issues/concepts/theories NOT discussed in the article that given what you've learned in class, would be valuable to consider?

Option 2: Take a normal activity you engage in (e.g., driving to school, playing a sport, getting ready in the morning, taking an exam, etc.) and discuss ALL of the cognitive psychological principles involved that allow you to execute that activity correctly (or incorrectly as it might be). You can discuss the underlying brain structures involved in each step, the cognitive concepts (using the correct terminology), what various theories might suggest if applicable, etc. Essentially, apply and appreciate all that goes into behaviors you often take for granted. Each paper should be approximately 4 pages, double-spaced with normal fonts and margins.

Homework - ZAPS Online Lessons & Demonstrations (10%)

There will be a total of 16 ZAPS lessons/demos throughout the semester, and to receive full credit you need to complete 13 of the 16. You will need to register on the ZAPS website: digital.wwnorton.com/cognition7 and create an account. You will also need to enter a course ID in order to receive credit for completing these lessons.

ZAPS online lab demos: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/cognition7>

COURSE ID: **148955**

ALL ZAPS assignments need to be completed by the date indicated on the class schedule, typically by 11:59pm the following Sunday or Tuesday after they appear on the class schedule.

Extra Credit

You can earn up to 10 extra credit points (weighted as 3% of your final grade) by summarizing and reflecting on an episode from RadioLab, a unique program that explores interesting topics from a variety of perspectives including psychology. The website is: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab>

Unfortunately, their website is not very easy to search, so pick ONE of the following episodes and then just google “Radiolab [name of episode]”:

Season 1 - Who am I; Season 2- Musical Language; Season 2 – Where am I; Season 3: Memory & Forgetting; Season 5 – Choice; Season 8 – Words; Season 10 – When Brains Attack; Season 11 – Inner Voices

After you listen to this episode write a 2-3 page, double-spaced paper that addresses the following:

1. Summarize the main idea(s) covered in the episode: What was the theme? What were the main things you learned about the topic?
2. Relate some part of this to the material you have learned in the course. What is something that you learned in the course that deepened your understanding of what you heard in this episode?

Grading

	A = 92-100%	A- = 90-91%
B+ = 88-89%	B = 82-87%	B- = 80-81%
C+ = 78-79%	C = 72-76%	C- = 70-71%
D+ = 68-69%	D = 62-66%	D- = 60-61%
E = 59% or below		

If needed a curve will be applied to the course

A = 20% B = 30% C = 40% D/E = 10%

In the event that less than 20% of the students earn A's, this curve will be applied. **I will only curve up and never down.** This means that a curve, if applied, will only help your score.

Additional Course Policies

Special Accommodations

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request.

You can contact SSD by phone: 801-626-6413 or email: ssd@weber.edu

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, nor is it tolerated anywhere at Weber. If you are caught you will be immediately reported to the Dean of Students which could result in your expulsion from the university.

Emergency Closure Policy

If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via email and CANVAS. Look for announcements on Weber e-mail. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	8/26	Intro to the course		
	8/28	Foundations of Cog Psych Neural Basis of Cognition	Ch. 1 Ch. 2	
2	9/2	No Class - Holiday		
	9/4	Neural Basis of Cognition	Ch. 2	Quiz 1 ZAPS Split Brain & Ponzo Illusion DUE 11:59pm 9/8
3	9/9	Visual Perception	Ch. 3	ZAPS Word Frequency DUE 11:59pm 9/10
	9/11	Visual Perception cont.	Ch. 3	Quiz 2 ZAPS Face Perception DUE 11:59pm 9/15
4	9/16	Recognizing Objects	Ch. 4	
	9/18	Recognizing Objects cont.	Ch. 4	Quiz 3 ZAPS Visual Search DUE 11:59pm 9/24
Exam 1 – open Thurs. 9/19 through Tues. 9/24				
5	9/23	No Class		
	9/25	Attention	Ch. 5	ZAPS Stroop DUE 11:59pm 9/29
6	9/30	Attention cont.	Ch. 5	ZAPS Serial Position DUE 11:59pm 10/1
	10/2	Working Memory & Memory Acquisition	Ch 1 pp 15-25 Ch. 6	Quiz 4 ZAPS Memory Bias DUE by 11:59pm 10/6
7	10/7	Working Memory & Memory Acquisition cont.	Ch. 6	
	10/9	Acquisition & Retrieval	Ch. 7	Quiz 5 ZAPS False Memory DUE 11:59pm 10/13
8	10/14	Acquisition & Retrieval cont.	Ch. 7	
	10/16	Memory for Complex Events	Ch. 8	Quiz 6 Paper #1 Due
Exam 2 – open Thur. 10/17 through Tues. 10/22				
9	10/21	No Class		
	10/23	Concepts and Knowledge	Ch. 9	ZAPS Sentence Verification DUE 11:59pm 10/27
10	10/28	Concepts and Knowledge cont.	Ch. 9	ZAPS Lexical Decision DUE 11:59pm 10/29
	10/30	Language	Ch. 10	Quiz 7
11	11/4	Language cont.	Ch. 10	ZAPS Analogical Representation DUE 11:59pm 11/5
	11/6	Visual Knowledge	Ch. 11	Quiz 8

12	11/11	Visual Knowledge cont.	Ch. 11	
	11/13	No Class		ZAPS Decision Making DUE 11:59pm 11/17
Exam 3 – open Tues. 11/12, through Sun. 11/17				
13	11/18	Judgment and Reasoning	Ch. 12	
	11/20	Judgment and Reasoning cont.	Ch. 12	ZAPS Sudden Insight DUE 11:59pm 11/24
14	11/25	Problem Solving and Intelligence	Ch. 13	Quiz 9 ZAPS Measuring Intelligence DUE 11:59pm 12/1
	11/27	Happy Thanksgiving – No class		
15	12/2	Problem Solving and Intelligence cont.	Ch. 13	Quiz 10 ZAPS Implicit Association DUE 11:59pm 12/3
	12/4	Consciousness	Ch. 14	
16	Finals	Exam #4 – open Thurs 12/5 through Thursday 12/12 Paper #2 due by 11:59pm Thursday 12/12		