



Psychology 3500
Cognition
Summer 2020
4 May – 19 June

Professor: Aaron Ashley, PhD
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Office Hours:

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Please note: The email address listed above is the best way to contact me. When communicating with me via email, use only your Weber State email account to contact me.

Any assignment sent from a non-Weber State email account may not be received.

Additional note regarding email, I typically respond to email in the morning; this tactic keeps me from perpetually responding to email. I will certainly respond to your emails when I have the chance, but you in most likelihood will receive a response the following morning.

Required Course Materials:

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

Reisberg, D. (2019). Cognition: Exploring the science of the mind (7th ed.). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.

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

Course Description: Cognitive psychology is the study of mental activity. It is the investigation of the so-called “black-box” between external stimulation and observable responses. Cognitive psychologists take a reverse engineering approach to the study of the mind. That is, they develop models to describe the processes of mental activity. Some of the topics of inquiry in cognitive psychology include perception, attention, memory, language, learning, and problem-solving. Cognitive psychologists are not only interested in understanding how mental processes occur and interact, but also in how we can use this understanding to enhance our lives. This course provides an overview of the field of cognitive psychology.

Course Objectives and Expected Outcomes: There are several general principles or themes that emerge across areas of inquiry in Cognitive Psychology/Cognitive Science. Some of the most fundamental are:

- Scientific method: Understanding the mind, like any other area of scientific inquiry, requires formulating and systematically testing well-developed and falsifiable theories.
- Evolutionary approach: The human mind has evolved to solve many difficult problems in the face of imperfect data. The way the mind solves the problems it solves can be understood as processes that operate on different types of mental representations.
- Cognitive representations: Understanding how the mind works means understanding its constituent representations and processes.

The primary goal of this course is to give you the tools to identify, understand, and appreciate how these general themes are realized across areas of inquiry in Cognitive Science. More generally, you should be able to recognize how these principles broadly guide and facilitate understanding how the mind works.

At the conclusion of the course you should be able to articulately discuss to the following questions:

- What is the nature of intelligence?
- How do humans and computers differ in the way they deal with information?
- How does the mind generally work such that it can solve the problems it solves?
- Different theories of how information is represented in the mind?
- What processes operate on mental representations to produce intelligent behavior?
- How does the form of mental representations affect how the mind solves various problems?
- Why does the mind function so well across so many domains and situations?
- How and why is human cognition simultaneously structured and flexible?

Class Format: I will post recorded lecture videos around central topics in each chapter. Videos will be around 10-15 minutes in length and focus on a singular concept. The goal of the lectures is to assist you in better understanding the complex concepts around which the chapters are structured. These lectures will follow the PowerPoint files posted but will not cover the entire file. That is, I will not be lecturing on every topic in every chapter.

Grades: Your final course grade will come from your performance on five exams (50 pts. each), 14 chapter quizzes (25 pts. each), 15 zaps labs (150 pts.), The following letter grade equivalents shall apply based on the points received to the total points available:

A... 93-100%	A-...90-92%	B+... 88-89%
B... 83-87%	B-...80-82%	C+... 78-79%
C... 77-73%	C-...70-72%	D+... 68-69%
D... 63-67%	D...60-62%	E..... 00-59%

Exams (100 pts each): There will be five section exams during the course of the semester. Each exam may consist of multiple choice, true/false, or short answer questions. All exams will be taken via Chi-Tester. If you are not familiar with chi-tester please visit the following website for details on how exams are completed using this method <http://chitester.weber.edu>.

Please note the dates for the exams listed below. These dates will not change. Arrange your schedule accordingly. Students who miss an exam will automatically receive 0 points for that exam.

Make-up Exams: Each exam date is listed on the syllabus. At this very moment, you know when each exam will be given. Additionally, you have a free class period in which to complete the exam; therefore, make-up exams will only be given under the following four circumstances. 1) Illness. I will need official certification from your doctor, typed on medical stationary (with their office # and license # to practice medicine on it) certifying the date of the office visit, and that you are now well enough to return to class. 2) Funeral attendance. I will need proof of funeral attendance with the date of the ceremony clearly listed. 3) Mandatory courtroom appearance. I will need a copy of your official court summons with the date of your required attendance clearly listed. 4) Weber State University event participation. I will need a signed letter from the event leader (e.g., coach, band director) no later than one week prior to the day of the exam.

In the interest of fairness, there will be NO exceptions to these policies.

Chapter Quizzes (25 pts each): In addition to the five section exams, there will be chapter review quizzes associated with each chapter. These quizzes are to be taken before the exam to ensure that you are familiar with the material before the exam. You will have 30-minutes to complete each 25-question quiz; so, you will not be able to go through the text and look-up each answer during the quiz. Therefore, you will need to have read and studied the material before you take the quiz. You can take each quiz up to three times and you will receive the points from your highest attempt. Each quiz will be due by 11:59pm on the due dates listed below in the schedule.

Zaps Labs (150 pts.): There will be a total of 19 ZAPS lessons/demos throughout the semester, and to receive full credit you need to complete 15 of the 19. You will need to register on the ZAPS website: <https://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: 223724

ALL ZAPS assignments need to be completed by the date indicated on the class schedule by 11:59pm.

Course Expectations and Policies:

Getting the Most out of the Course: Cognition is a course that some students wrestle with, not because of the complicated nature of the material, but because cognitive psychology takes an engineering approach to mental processing. This approach is a drastically different way of thinking about psychological processes, and one with which most students are not readily familiar. Therefore, I highly encourage you to ask questions when you don't understand some concept.

Discriminatory Harassment: Weber State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of discrimination based upon race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, creed, age, lack of American citizenship, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era, sexual orientation or preference or gender, including sexual/gender harassment. Such an environment is a necessary part of a healthy learning and working atmosphere because such discrimination undermines the sense of human dignity and sense of belonging of all people in the environment. Thus, students in this class should practice professional deportment, and avoid treating others in a manner that is demeaning or derisive in any respect.

While diverse viewpoints and opinions are welcome in this class, in expressing them, we will practice mutual deference so important in the world of work. Thus, while I encourage you to share your opinions, when appropriate, you will be expected to do so in a manner that is respectful towards others, even when you disagree with them.

If you have questions regarding the university's policy against discrimination and harassment you may contact the university's AA/EO office (626-6239) or visit its website: <http://departments.weber.edu/aeao/>.

Academic dishonesty policy: Weber State University imposes specific disciplinary actions in response to incidents of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). These actions may include admonition, failing grade, failure of course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal. The specified policies can be found in the WSU Student Code at <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>. Cheating will not be tolerated in this or any class at WSU. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment will result in a grade of E. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism, if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism please contact me.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. Weber State University policies regarding Services for Students with Disabilities are available on the <http://weber.edu/ssd> website.

Course Materials: Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio record lectures, on the condition that these audio recordings are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course. Unauthorized recording is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, for which a student may be subjected to disciplinary action under [PPM 6-22](#), Student Code.

Emergency Closure: If for any reason the university is forced to close or enter continuity of operations plan for an extended period, we will conduct our class via e-mail, Canvas, and other interactive platforms. Look for announcements on Weber e-mail and Canvas. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and I encourage you to sign up for it.

Mental Health: College can be a stressful time in a student's life. If you are struggling with depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, or other mental health issues please consider downloading the free SafeUT App. This app can put you in contact with a crisis counselor via text or phone call. You can also contact SafeUT CrisisLine Direct at 1-800-273-8255.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Assignments due at 11:59 pm (Due date)</u>
Foundations of Cog Psych	Ch. 1	Chapter 1 Quiz (6 May)
Neural Basis of Cognition	Ch. 2	Chapter 2 Quiz (9 May) ZAPS Split Brain & Ponzo Illusion
EXAM I	Ch. 1-2	12 May
Visual Perception	Ch. 3	Chapter 3 Quiz (13 May) ZAPS Word Frequency & Face Perception
Recognizing Objects	Ch. 4	Chapter 4 Quiz (16 May) ZAPS Stroop & Visual Search
Attention	Ch. 5	Chapter 5 Quiz (20 May) ZAPS Serial Position & Operation Span
EXAM	Ch. 3-5	23 May
Memory Acquisition	Ch. 6	Chapter 6 Quiz (23 May) ZAPS Encoding Specificity & Memory Bias
Memory Acquisition and Retrieval	Ch. 7	Chapter 7 Quiz (27 May) ZAPS False Memory
Remembering Complex Events	Ch. 8	Chapter 8 Quiz (30 May) ZAPS Sentence Verification
EXAM III	Ch. 6-8	2 June
Concepts and Knowledge	Ch. 9	Chapter 9 Quiz (3 June) ZAPS Lexical Decision

Language	Ch. 10	Chapter 10 Quiz (6 June) ZAPS Analogical Rep. & Mental Rotation
Visual Knowledge	Ch. 11	Chapter 11 Quiz (10 June) ZAPS Decision Making
EXAM IV	Ch. 9-11	13 June
Judgment and Reasoning	Ch. 12	Chapter 12 Quiz (13 June) ZAPS Sudden Insight & Measuring IQ
Problem Solving and Intelligence	Ch. 13	Chapter 13 Quiz (17 June) ZAPS Implicit Association
Consciousness	Ch. 14	Chapter 14 Quiz (20 June)
EXAM V	Ch. 12-14	21 June