

Spring 2014

01:830:305 – Cognition

- Section 04: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:20 – 4:40 PM, Beck AUD
- Section 07: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:40 – 8:00 PM, SEC 111

Instructor:

Dr. John Ackroff

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:30, and by appointment

I do not have any Special Permission Numbers.

Teaching Assistant:

- Section 04:

Meng Zhang (meng.zhang0904@rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Wedensdays, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, and by appointment, PSY 319 (Busch)

- Section 07:

TBA

Textbook:

Goldstein, E. Bruce. (2011). *Cognitive Psychology*. (Third Edition). Cengage Learning. ISBN 978049591476.

To be available at New Jersey Books, 37 Easton Avenue, New Brunswick. Copies may also be available at Barnes & Noble.

We will not be using the "CogLab" web materials, so you don't need to worry about getting access codes, etc.

A copy of the book will be on reserve at the Kilmer Area Library.

About Cognition – Course Goals:

Most people think that cognition is about thinking and learning. In this course, we will take a much broader approach, and look at how our brain and mental processes are involved in almost every aspect of our lives. We will also see how we can apply the information discussed in the course to situations outside the classroom. You should also improve your critical thinking skills as a result of taking this course.

Exams and Grading:

You are expected to comply with Rutgers' [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Early in the semester there will be an online quiz in which you indicate that you have read the Syllabus and agree to its terms, including compliance with the Academic Integrity Policy. This quiz does not count toward your grade, however, you must agree to these terms in order to receive your scores.

There will be three non-cumulative exams based on the text and other materials presented in class. You are responsible for bringing pencils with erasers to each exam. You may also bring a pen for the essay questions if you wish. You must also bring your Rutgers ID Card to the exam.

Exam scores will be posted on the PostEm tab on sakai. Whenever scores are posted, the grade scale will be updated so that the letter grade you see corresponds to your current grade based on the total number of points (including extra credit) you have earned.

The first two exams will consist of two parts: 40 multiple choice questions, worth 80% of the grade for that exam, and an essay question worth 20% of your grade for that exam. One week prior to each exam, four essay questions will be posted online. Two of those questions will be selected for the exam; you will be required to answer either one of them in class. A sample question and answer will be posted before the first exam to give you some guidance as to what is expected. The third exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

If you have questions about your score on a Multiple Choice exam, you can discuss them with Dr. Ackroff. If you have a question about your essay questions, you must discuss it with your Teaching Assistant. In either case, you should do this before the next exam.

If you have a schedule conflict with an exam, you may be allowed to take the exam before the scheduled date at the discretion of the instructor. If you miss an exam, you will be allowed to take a make-up exam only if you provide documentation for a valid reason for missing the exam. For absences due to colds, etc., a note from your Health Center or doctor will be acceptable. For more serious issues such as a death in the family or serious health or personal issues, you may present a note from your Dean's office verifying that you missed the exam due to an excused absence. This note should also indicate a reasonable time frame in which you will be able to make up the exam. You should give this note to the instructor within 1 week of your return to class.

If an exam is cancelled or postponed on the day of the exam, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

Grading in this course works differently from most other courses. Final grades will be determined by the total number of points you score on the Multiple Choice exams and essay questions.

At the end of the semester, the point total for all exams is computed for each student, and an absolute frequency distribution is made. The top 2 or 3% of the students scores are not used to compute grades. The highest remaining point total is used as the base for computing students' grades.

- Students whose point total is 85.00% or more of the base receive A grades.
- Students whose point total is 83.00 to 84.99% of the base receive B+ grades.
- Students whose point total is 75.00 to 82.99% of the base receive B grades.
- Students whose point total is 73.00 to 74.99% of the base receive C+ grades.
- Students whose point total is 60.00 to 72.99% of the base receive C grades.
- Students whose point total is 50.00 to 59.99% of the base receive D grades.

Extra credit points (see below) are added to the total number of points you score after the cutoffs have been determined.

Practice Exams

will be made available on sakai.

Extra Credit:

You will have an opportunity to earn extra credit points by taking special forms of the practice exams. This will be explained when the first Practice Exam is made available.

There may be opportunities to earn extra credit through participating in experiments; these will be announced if and when they become available.

Note that these are the only opportunities available for extra credit.

Attendance and Correspondence Policies:

- **Attendance:** You should attend all meetings of all of your classes. My lectures are based on the material in the assigned readings, but may also cover material not discussed in the readings. You are responsible for all of this material.

If you arrive late or must leave before class is over, please sit near a door and try to be as inconspicuous as possible. It is distracting to everyone to have people walking in and out of the classroom during class.

Classes are held according to the schedule below as long as the University is open. If the weather appears to be threatening, you can check the [Campus Operating Status](#) here.

If an class is cancelled, postponed, or moved on the day of class, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

- **Classroom Etiquette:** Please turn off all cell phones, etc., before class begins.

If you wish to use a laptop computer to take notes, that is fine. If you wish to use a laptop computer to surf the web, play games, IM your friends, etc., I would suggest you go to the nearest Student Center. This advice also applies to having side discussions with your classmates, reading newspapers, doing puzzles, etc.

- **Questions:** I encourage you to ask questions during class. If something is unclear, or if you have a question related to the material being discussed, please ask your question then. Chances are that some of your classmates would also like some additional discussion of the topic.
- **Email:** I try to answer email promptly. Having said that,
 - Please use a Subject that gives me some idea what you are writing about. This is especially important if you send mail from an account other than eden. Mail from sexgoddess@aol.com with a subject of "hello" is likely to be considered spam and deleted unread.
 - If you ask me a question whose answer is on the course web page or Syllabus, my reply is likely to say that.
 - If you ask me a question about your standing in the course, please include your name and which course and section you are enrolled in.
 - Please re-read the section on "Questions" above. I realize that there are times when you are reviewing notes after class and/or before an exam when you will discover that you have a question. But it is in everyone's best interest for you to ask your questions in class, rather than after the fact, if you have a question while class is in session.
 - You are responsible for any announcements, etc., I send to the class via email.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Tuesday, January 21	(No Class)	
Wednesday, January 22	Course Introduction and Overview	
Thursday, January 23		
Monday, January 27	History of Cognition: Basic Scientific Principles	Chapters 1 and 2
Tuesday, January 28		
Wednesday, January 29	Learning	
Thursday, January 30		

Monday, February 3 Tuesday, February 4	Learning, cont'd	
Wednesday, February 5 Thursday, February 6	Perception	Chapter 3
Monday, February 10 Tuesday, February 11	Attention	Chapter 4 and pp 121-122.
Wednesday, February 12 Thursday, February 13	Attention, cont'd	
Monday, February 17 Tuesday, February 18	Review for Exam I	
Wednesday, February 19 Thursday, February 20	EXAM I	
Monday, February 24 Tuesday, February 25	Memory: Remembering New Information	Chapter 5 and pp 151-153, 174-176, 178-179.
Wednesday, February 26 Thursday, February 27	Memory Systems and Knowledge	Chapter 6 and pp 206-207, 250-260.
Monday, March 3 Tuesday, March 4	Memory: Beyond Basic Effects	Chapter 7 and pp 208-218, 219-224, 226-233.
Wednesday, March 5 Thursday, March 6	Spatial Memory, Imagery, and Visual Memory	Chapter 10
Monday, March 10 Tuesday, March 11	Language	Chapter 11
Wednesday, March 12 Thursday, March 13	Language, cont'd	
Week of March 17	No Class -- Spring Break	
Monday, March 24 Tuesday, March 25	Review for Exam II	
Wednesday, March 26 Thursday, March 27	EXAM II	
Monday, March 31 Tuesday, April 1	Concepts and Categories	pp 240 - 249.
Wednesday, April 2 Thursday, April 3	Reasoning	Chapter 13, pp 358 - 374
Monday, April 7 Tuesday, April 8	Reasoning, cont'd	
Wednesday, April 9 Thursday, April 10	Problem Solving	Chapter 12

Monday, April 14 Tuesday, April 15	Problem Solving, cont'd	
Wednesday, April 16 Thursday, April 17	Expertise and Creativity	
Monday, April 21 Tuesday, April 22	Expertise and Creativity, cont'd; Judgment and Decision Making	Chapter 13, pp 375 - 389
Wednesday, April 23 Thursday, April 24	Judgment and Decision Making, cont'd	
Monday, April 28 Tuesday, April 29	Intelligence	
Wednesday, April 30 Thursday, May 1	Review	
Monday, May 5	No Class	
Final Exam	EXAM III Rules for Final Exam Conflicts	
Thursday, May 8	Section 07	8:00 - 9:20 PM
Wednesday, May 14	Section 04	12:00 - 1:20 PM

I consider the course materials used for lecture content and the course web pages to be my personal intellectual property or the intellectual property of other parties, as identified. I view the sale or purchase of these materials as a violation of copyright laws. You may not post these materials or derivative materials such as study guides to any web site. Violation of this policy will result in loss of access to the course on sakai. You may not record lectures and/or classroom discussions without my express written consent.

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