

# Spring 2015

## 01:830:305 – Cognition

- Section 04: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:40 – 3:00 PM, TIL 232
- Section 07: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:40 – 8:00 PM, SEC 111

### Instructor:

Dr. John Ackroff

[ackroff@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:ackroff@rci.rutgers.edu)

Office: Tillett 223

Phone: (848) 445-2635

Fax: (732) 445-0036

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

**I do not have any Special Permission Numbers.**

### Teaching Assistants:

- Section 04:

Sara Mann ([sara.mann@rutgers.edu](mailto:sara.mann@rutgers.edu))

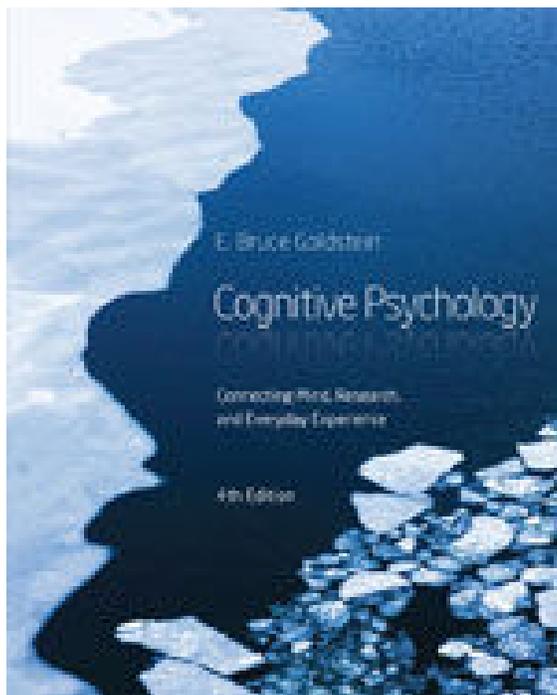
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, and by appointment, TIL 325

- Section 07:

Jeremy Engelberg ([jeremy.engelberg@rutgers.edu](mailto:jeremy.engelberg@rutgers.edu))

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, and by appointment, TIL 325

### Required Text



Goldstein, E. Bruce. (2015). *Cognitive Psychology*. (Fourth Edition). Cengage Learning. ISBN 9781285763880.

A link will be provided on the course sakai site to allow you to purchase the book directly from the publisher at a reduced price.

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

A copy of the book is 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 a makeup exam at the discretion of the instructor. You must notify the instructor of your absence **before** the exam is given in order to be allowed to take a makeup. If you miss an exam, you will be allowed to take a makeup 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. This note **must** indicate that you were not able to take the exam at the scheduled time. 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. In any case, your note **must also** indicate when 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 you cannot document that you had a valid reason for missing an exam, you **may** be allowed to take a makeup exam solely at the discretion of the instructor.

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.

- **Online Etiquette:** The Chat Room on sakai is provided for you to exchange course-related information.
  - Arranging study groups, asking (and answering) questions about the course material, asking for help with notes you may have missed are all legitimate uses of the Chat Room.
  - Making comments about others or their posts is not. See the [University Policy](#) if you are unsure of what's acceptable.
  - You may not discuss the Multiple Choice exam questions and/or answers in the Chat Room.
  - You may discuss questions and answers from the **Short** Practice Exams, but not the Long Practice Exams.

Any violation of this policy will result in your loss of access to **ALL** sakai resources.

- **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, make in class, or post on sakai.

## Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Tuesday, January 20	(No Class)	
Wednesday, January 21	Course Introduction and Overview	
Thursday, January 22		
Monday, January 26	History of Cognition: Basic Scientific Principles	Chapters 1 and 2
Tuesday, January 27		
Wednesday, January 28	Learning	
Thursday, January 29		
Monday, February 2	Learning, cont'd	
Tuesday, February 3		
Wednesday, February 4	Perception	Chapter 3
Thursday, February 5		
Monday, February 9	Attention	Chapter 4 and pp 121-122.
Tuesday, February 10		
Wednesday, February 11	Attention, cont'd	
Thursday, February 12		

Monday, February 16	Review for Exam I	
Tuesday, February 17		
Wednesday, February 18	<b>EXAM I</b>	
Thursday, February 19		
Monday, February 23	Memory: Remembering New Information	Chapter 5 and pp 154-156, 180-181, 182-185.
Tuesday, February 24		
Wednesday, February 25	Memory Systems and Knowledge	Chapter 6 and pp 209-211, 256-264.
Thursday, February 26		
Monday, March 2	Memory: Beyond Basic Effects	Chapter 7 and pp 212-222, 223-228, 231-238.
Tuesday, March 3		
Wednesday, March 4	Spatial Memory, Imagery, and Visual Memory	Chapter 10
Thursday, March 5		
Monday, March 9	Language	Chapter 11
Tuesday, March 10		
Wednesday, March 11	Language, cont'd	
Thursday, March 12		
Week of March 16	No Class -- Spring Break	
Monday, March 23	Review for Exam II	
Tuesday, March 24		
Wednesday, March 25	<b>EXAM II</b>	
Thursday, March 26		
Monday, March 30	Concepts and Categories	pp 240 - 249.
Tuesday, March 31		
Wednesday, April 1	Reasoning	Chapter 13, pp 358 - 374
Thursday, April 2		
Monday, April 6	Reasoning, cont'd	
Tuesday, April 7		
Wednesday, April 8	Problem Solving	Chapter 12
Thursday, April 9		
Monday, April 13	Problem Solving, cont'd	
Tuesday, April 14		
Wednesday, April 15	Expertise and Creativity	
Thursday, April 16		
Monday, April 20	Expertise and Creativity, cont'd; Judgment and	Chapter 13, pp 375 - 389
Tuesday, April 21	Decision Making	
Wednesday, April 22	Judgment and Decision Making, cont'd	
Thursday, April 23		

Monday, April 27	Intelligence	
Tuesday, April 28		
Wednesday, April 29	Review	
Thursday, April 30		
Monday, May 4	No Class	
Final Exam	<b>EXAM III</b>	
	<a href="#">Rules for Final Exam Conflicts</a>	
Thursday, May 7	Section 07	8:00 - 9:20 PM
Tuesday, May 12	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. This includes, but is not restricted to, sites such as googledocs, Study Blue, and so on. 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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