

Cognition

Summer 2016

01:830:305:B7

Christina Boyce-Jacino

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Office: Busch Psychology Building, room 221

Office hours: Tuesday 10:00 - 11:00am

Class time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00 - 9:40PM

Class location: Livingston Campus, Lucy Stone Hall, Room B110

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the questions that define the field of Cognitive Psychology, the theories and methods used to investigate these questions, the debates that characterize discourse about the nature of cognition, and an idea of some answers that seem to be emerging.

We will cover topics including perception, attention, memory, and judgment and decision making. For each of these topics, you will be able to recognize and recall important empirical findings and theories, evaluate experimental evidence, and understand events in your own life in terms of cognitive processes. Prerequisite: 01:830:101

Course Materials:

A textbook is required for this class. The required textbook is available in print from Rutgers-Barnes & Noble bookstore or in ebook format from the link posted on Sakai.

Title: Cognitive Psychology – Theory, Process, and Methodology
Authors: Dawn M. McBride and J. Cooper Cutting
Publisher: Sage
Edition: First Edition
ISBN: 978-1-4522-8879-6

Sakai site. All course updates and announcements will be made through our Saki site. Additionally, all lecture slides and supplementary readings will be posted here.

How to reach me:

Office Hours will be held Tuesday 10:00 - 11:00 am in Psychology Building room 221, Busch Campus. Feel free to drop in during this time; no appointment needed. If this time doesn't work for you, set up a meeting by emailing me with 3 suggested times you are available.

Email (christina.boycejacino@rutgers.edu) is an excellent way to reach me. I will try to reply to emails within one working day. If I don't respond to your email within that time, feel free to speak to me before or after class or send me a reminder email. Please check the course webpage for the answer to your question before you email me. I may not respond to emails if the answer to your query is easily found on the course webpage. When sending an email to me, you must use your Rutgers email account.

Main Topics and Readings:

	Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Tues. May 31	Introduction	<p>Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whitman, Ch. 1 <p>Optional:</p> <p>Pinker, “The Blank Slate”, Ch. 1</p>
	Thurs. June 2	Logic, Reasoning, and Computation	<p>Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Turing, “Computing machinery and intelligence” Anderson, “Searle and the Chinese Room Argument” – http://www.mind.ilstu.edu/curriculum/searle_chinese_room/searle_chinese_room.php?modGUI=203&compGUI=1863&itemGUI=3256 <p>Optional:</p> <p>Pylyshyn, “What’s in your mind?”</p> <p>Block, “The Mind as the Software of the Brain”</p>
Week 2	Tues. June 7	Perception	<p>Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> McBride & Cutting (M&C) Ch 3 TBD <p>Optional:</p> <p>Goldstein, Ch. 5</p>
	Thurs. June 9	Attention	<p>Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> M&C Ch 4 TBD <p>Optional:</p> <p>Revlin, Ch. 2</p>
Week 3	Tues. June 14	Guest Lecture	<p>Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schneider, “The People Make the Place” Salancik & Pfeffer. “A Social Information Processing Approach to Job Attitudes and Task Design” <p>Optional:</p> <p>Snyder, “An Introduction to Self-Monitoring”</p>
	Thurs. June 16	Midterm exam	
Week 4	Tues. June 21	Language and Social Cognition	<p>Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> M&C Ch 9 Baron-Cohen, Leslie, and Frith, “Does the Autistic Child have a Theory of Mind?” <p>Optional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Onishi & Baillargeon, “Do 15-month-old infants understand false belief?”

	Thurs. June 23	Cognitive Neuroscience	Required: 1. FriedenberG & Silverman, Ch. 6 1. Berns, "How dogs love us", TEDxAtlanta: https://youtu.be/B0Y-GU3JqiQ Optional: Quiroga et al., "Brain cells for Grandmother"
Week 5	Tues. June 28	Memory	Required: 1. M&C Ch 5, 6 ,and 7 2. The Guardian, "Henry Molaison: the amnesiac we'll never forget" Optional: TBD
	Thurs. June 30	Decision Making I	Required: 1. TBD 2. TBD Optional: TBD
Week 6	Tues. July 5	Decision Making II	Required: 1. TBD 2. TBD Optional: TBD
	Thurs. July 7	Final exam	

** NOTE: everything in this schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced. **

Grade Calculation:

The grading breakdown is as follows:

- Midterm: 35%
- Final: 35%
- Class work: 30%

Percentages will be converted to letter grades as follows:

- 90% -100% --- A
- 87% - 89% --- B+
- 80% - 86% --- B
- 77% - 79% --- C+
- 70% - 76% --- C
- 60% - 69% --- D
- 59% - 0% --- F

Exams. There are 2 in-class closed-book time-limited exams. On exam day you should bring #2 pencils and erasers.

What will the exams be like? Exams will consist of a combination of short-answer and multiple choice questions. Exam questions will come from the lecture and the readings. There will be a few questions on material covered in the readings but not in lecture. Exam questions

will test your knowledge of the course content and will also test your reasoning skills. Note that the final will not be cumulative.

What if I miss an exam? In order to qualify for a make-up for either exam you must notify me in advance and provide appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, an obituary or funeral notice, a police report, etc.). Except in case of an unforeseeable emergency, you must notify me at least one week in advance of the exam. If you do not meet all of these criteria, you will not be permitted to take a make-up.

What is a make-up exam like? If you qualify for a make-up, your make-up exam will use an all-essay format. There will be one make-up session and the date and time of this session will be announced later in the semester.

Class Work. There will be up to three class work assignments per class. These assignments will be given out during class and students will work on them individually or in groups. They may involve thinking about the required readings, reviewing what we just went over in lecture, or completing interactive online tasks. Sometimes they will be group activities! At the end of each class, students will hand in their class work assignments. Full credit will be given for class work that has been thoughtfully completed and all work will be handed back during the next class. Note that class work assignments may only be submitted when the class is over; students that leave early from class will not get credit for completing class work.

What if I'm absent? Attendance is mandatory and necessary to do well in this class. However, you will get two free passes for attendance without penalty to your grade. There is no make-up opportunity for missing class work assignments after that. If you have a verifiable excuse (e.g., a doctor's note, an obituary or funeral notice, a police report, etc.), submit the appropriate documentation. Keep in mind that you will be responsible for learning the material covered during any class time for which you were absent.

Policies:

Slides will be posted after each class, but not before, and will not contain all information presented in class. Regular attendance is essential to doing well in this course!

Final grades are final. Once grades are assigned after the final exam, grade changes will not be considered. If you are having trouble with the material before that, e-mail me or come to my office hours. Remember, a grade is not something given to you; it is something you earn.

Academic integrity. Cheating and other violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. For further information about the Rutgers academic integrity policy, please consult this website: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>.

Students with Disabilities. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please follow these procedures outlined at: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

If you decide to stay enrolled in this class after receiving this syllabus, I will assume that you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.