

Cognition
Spring 2019 – 01:830:305
Mondays, and Wednesdays 5:00PM – 6:20PM
Pharmacy (PH) 111, Busch Campus

Instructor: Elio Santos, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

General description of the class:

Cognition is the area of psychology that studies how humans and other animals use the information we have available -from the world and from our memories - to act in the world.

In this class, we will be examining this process from a broader, information-theoretic based angle. We will also be discussing and learning about the scientific process: how scientist go from observations → hypotheses → experiments → theories.

Even if you are not planning on becoming a Cognition researcher, understanding the ranges and limits of our brain's abilities, and understanding the process of scientific thinking, will be helpful to you in whatever you plan on doing.

Learning goals:

1. Develop scientific and critical reasoning skills.
2. Learn about the fundamental theories and approaches to the field of cognition.
3. Understand some of the links between mind and brain, and how those links are discovered.
4. Appreciate how useful cognition is and the role it plays in everyday life.

Course Materials:

Textbook: Cognitive Psychology, 4th Edition, Goldstein, EB. ISBN: 978-1285763880. You do not need CogLab for this class.

You do not want to use the 3rd edition of the book because there are differences between the 4th and 3rd edition.

Class website: Announcements, changes, assignments, resources, grades, etc. will be posted in the Sakai (<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>) site for this class (**COGNITION 01 Sp19**).

Class Requirements

There will be 3 exams and a final exam. The final (fourth) exam will occur during finals week on the date scheduled by the university.

Make-Up Exams: Students are required to take all exams. In order to qualify for a make-up, you must notify me as soon as possible by email and provide appropriate documentation (e.g., a physician's note, an obituary or funeral notice, a police report, etc.). If you need to miss a class for a planned absence in the future (e.g., a religious holiday), please talk to me at the beginning of the semester or a month before so that we can schedule a make-up. If you do not meet all of these criteria, you will not be permitted to take a make-up. Make-up exams may differ significantly in structure from the in-class exams.

Final Exam: The final exam will focus on the last unit, but there will be material from the other units we covered in the entire semester. The Final Exam is as scheduled by the University: be sure to check your exam schedule as in this link (<https://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>) for the correct time.

If you have a conflict as defined here and you plan on rescheduling this class's final exam, please see Dr. Santos as soon as possible. You can find more information here (<https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/exam-scheduling/final-exam-policies>)

Cancellations: if an exam or class is cancelled, an announcement will be posted on Sakai and you will receive an email. If I am not able to make the announcement, a member of the psychology department will make the announcement. Random notices posted on doors or walls about class/exam being cancelled are likely to be hoaxes.

Missed classes: You are responsible for material covered in classes that you may miss. To find out what was covered borrow notes from another student. If you still have questions about the material, you can make an appointment to come to office hours.

Reading: You are responsible for reading all the assigned readings, especially the chapters from the textbook. The material covered in the course is cumulative. Ideas introduced in the first few lectures will be amplified and developed throughout the semester. The text and the lecture complement each other; they are not intended to be redundant. You are responsible for material in both.

Assignments: assignments will be given throughout the semester. Some of the assignments will be posted on the course Sakai website, and others will be given out in class. The in-class assignments will most likely be in group assignments in which you can use your notes and discuss the answers with your small group. These assignments are meant to provide you with more interaction with me and the other students in the class. No late assignments will be accepted unless you have appropriate documentation.

Grading

The break down for the final grade will be the following:

Assignments	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grade percentage system

- A: 90 – 100%
- B+: 86 – 89.9999%
- B: 80 – 85.9999%
- C+: 76 – 79.9999%
- C: 70 – 75.9999%
- D: 60 – 69.9999%
- F: <60%

These cutpoints will apply to everyone. No adjustments in cutpoints will be made for individual students.

Course Schedule

Assigned readings should be read in advance of the associated lectures. I will also be posting journal articles in the class website so we can discuss them in class. You will be responsible for the methodology, ideas, findings and conclusions of these research articles.

Date	Topic	Assigned readings
Wed – 01/23/2019	Welcome to Cognition	
Mon – 01/28/2019	What is Cognition?	Chapter 1
Wed – 01/30/2019	Neuroscience	Chapter 2
Mon – 02/04/2019	Neuroscience	Chapter 2
Wed – 02/04/2019	Perception	Chapter 3
Mon – 02/11/2019	Perception	Chapter 3
Wed – 02/13/2019	Attention	Chapter 4
Mon – 02/18/2019	Attention	Chapter 4
Wed – 02/20/2019	Exam 1: fundamentals	
Mon – 02/25/2019	Short-term memory	Chapter 5
Wed – 02/27/2019	Short-term memory	Chapter 5
Mon – 03/04/2019	Long-term Memory: Structure	Chapter 6
Wed – 03/06/2019	Long-term Memory: Structure	Chapter 6
Mon – 03/11/2019	Long-term Memory: Encoding, retrieval, consolidation	Chapter 7

Wed – 03/13/2019	Long-term Memory: Encoding, retrieval, consolidation	Chapter 7
Mon – 03/18/2019	No class: Spring Recess	
Wed – 03/20/2019	No class: Spring Recess	
Mon – 03/25/2019	Everyday Memory	Chapter 8
Wed – 03/27/2019	Exam 2: Memory	
Mon – 04/01/2019	Knowledge	Chapter 9
Wed – 04/03/2019	Knowledge	Chapter 9
Mon – 04/08/2019	Imagery	Chapter 10
Wed – 04/10/2019	Language	Chapter 11
Mon – 04/15/2019	Language	Chapter 11
Wed – 04/17/2019	Exam 3: Higher-level Cognitive Skills – Part 1	
Mon – 04/22/2019	Problem Solving	Chapter 12
Wed – 04/24/2019	Problem Solving	Chapter 12
Mon – 04/28/2019	Judgment and Decision Making	Chapter 13
Wed – 05/01/2019	Judgment and Decision Making	Chapter 13
Mon – 05/06/2019	Review/reserved for any schedule adjustment	
Wed – 05/08/2019	No class	
05/10/2019 at 4:00PM*	Final exam	

* Time and date above are tentative. Please check University website to find time and date of final exam (<https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/exam-scheduling/final-exam-schedule>).

Note taking, participation, and electronic devices

I expect all students to ask questions, participate in class, and take notes. **You are not allowed to use any electronic device (cell phones, laptops, and tablets) while I am lecturing unless you are taking notes.**

No electronic recording of the lecture is allowed. This includes photos, videos, audio recording, cell-phone-based, and any other type of electronic recording.

PowerPoint slides

I might post my PowerPoint presentations in the class website to help you take better notes to prepare you for the exam. However, you cannot share my PowerPoints, or any other material I give you with anyone outside of the class. You cannot post them in other website either.

Email Policies

All electronic communication about the course will be through email – you will receive notices about additions to the course site, reminders about exams, etc. through your school email. Please be sure to check your school email at least daily.

The best way to contact me is through email. Please note that due to Federal Regulations protecting your privacy, I cannot respond to emails sent from non-Rutgers email accounts. Please use your Rutgers email to contact me, and include the course and section number along with your full name in the email itself. Please note that lengthy or complex issues will not be discussed over email.

Grades will not be discussed over email, for your own privacy. Feel free to send me an email at any time! However, be aware that I am rarely available immediately, and it may take up to a full business day for me to respond. If I haven't responded after two business days, please re-send the email.

Academic Integrity

Getting any form of assistance from other students or outside sources on exams, quizzes or individual homework assignments is prohibited. Students suspected of doing so will be brought up on charges before university's Office of Student Conduct, and penalties, up to and including expulsion, will be imposed for those found guilty. (See <http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section10/10.2.13-current.pdf> for specifics or <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>)

Academic Accommodations

Should you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Disability Services for Students (<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>). You should register with disability services as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services (<https://ods.rutgers.edu/contact-ods>) and to provide me with the appropriate documentation from that office at least one week prior to any request for specific course accommodations. There are no retroactive accommodations.

Ten helpful hints

1. The most important requirement for doing well in this class is to attend class. Lecture attendance is crucial.
2. The course content is cumulative so if you miss class, your understanding of material in subsequent classes will be compromised.
3. Ask questions in lecture if you're confused. New material relies on the concepts already developed.
4. Ask questions for information, to test your own knowledge and to develop critical skills.
5. Make sure you understand the main points of each lecture and the main points of the reading material. You should be able to understand how specific examples and specific details relate to the main themes. Test yourself by writing a short summary or

an outline of the lecture. Don't rely on the feeling that you know what's going on. See if you can state the main points and solve simple problems.

6. Each lecture builds on the material of the prior lectures. Review your notes, with special emphasis on the main themes, before coming to class.
7. When reading the text pay particular attention to the key words, examples and to the graphs and figures. This is where the authors are putting the most important information.
8. Pace your reading wisely. Do not leave it all for the last minute.
9. For individual help, see me after class, or during office hours.
10. If you would like to discuss exam performance, bring your exam to office hours. Often there is a pattern to the errors that can be diagnosed only by examining your performance.

Agreement to Policies

- **Changes and amendments may be made to this syllabus and schedule as the course progresses.**
- **If you decide to stay enrolled in this class after receiving this syllabus, I will assume you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.**