

COGNITION

830:305:B6 - Summer 2018

Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00-9:40 pm, 5/29/2018 – 7/6/2018

Lucy Stone Hall, B110

Last updated 5/25/18

Instructor: Meng Zhang

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When you e-mail me, please add “Cognition Course” in the title

Office Hours: By appointment, Room 317, Tillett Hall

Please read the syllabus all the way to the end. Your continued enrollment in the course implies your understanding and acceptance of the information in the syllabus.

Course Objectives

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, language, decision-making, concepts, social cognition, and cognitive development. 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.

Course Structure

Each class composes lectures and in-class activities. Course topics are primarily based on two optional textbooks below. For some topics, additional readings will be posted on Sakai. You are expected to complete the reading assigned before class. The lectures will focus on central themes of each topic. In-class activities include discussion, films, presentations, etc. Lecture slides will be available on Sakai after class.

Recommended Textbooks

Primary

Book title: Cognitive Psychology – Theory, Process, and Methodology

Author: Dawn M. McBride and J. Cooper Cutting

Publisher: Sage

Edition: Second Edition

ISBN: 9781506383866

Secondary

Book title: Cognitive Psychology: Connecting mind, research, and everyday experience

Author: E. Bruce Goldstein

Publisher: Cengage

Edition: 4th Edition

ISBN: 9781285763880

Workloads

Reading: You are expected to read the assigned readings **before** each class.

Tips for reading and studying book chapters: Before you read a chapter, flip through it, read captions of sections, read explanations on some pictures and graphs that grab your attention, then go to the chapter summary and read it carefully. After you know what the chapter is about, start from the beginning and read through it. After reading each major section, summarize the main points, in your own words. If you haven't taken many other courses in psychology, writing down your summaries is likely to help you remember unfamiliar ideas and information. Ask yourself how those main points relate to material you have learned in other courses and how those main points relate to your experience or observations.

In-Class Discussion Leader: You will sign for one topic to be the discussion leader.

Being a discussion leader, you need to read course materials for that topic before hand and send your **discussion plans (including proposed questions and activities)** to Meng **at least 1 day before your discussion**. This is a good opportunity for you to work with Meng and possibly people in our class. Your job as a discussion leader will be evaluated from the following aspects:

- The quality and relevance of proposed discussion questions and activities
- The amount of preparation you spend
- The punctuality of submitting your discussion plan
- The effectiveness of you leading the entire class in informative and thoughtful discussion

In-Class Discussion Reporter: You will sign for one topic to be the discussion reporter.

Being a discussion reporter, first you need to actively participate in the discussion, ideally to assistant the discussion leader to some extent; second you need to write a report about questions being discussed, views being presented, and your reflections and expansion of the questions and discussion. Your job as a discussion reporter will be evaluated from the following aspects:

- The quality of the written report
- Your active facilitation of the discussion
- The punctuality of submitting your discussion report

Quizzes: There will be 5 open-book, online quizzes in total; each contains approximately 20 questions, mainly multiple-choice questions; sometimes short answer questions. Only things covered in the lecture will be tested in the quizzes. Often time you will be able to find the answers in the lecture slides.

Final Exam: The final exam will cover everything in this course. It contains approximately 40 multiple-choice questions and 3 short answer questions. The multiple-choices would be similar to the previous quizzes. The short answer questions will be based on the questions discussed in class. You will be fine with the multiple-choices if you stay with quizzes; you will be fine with the short answer questions if you actively participate/lead in-class discussion.

Because we will only have one final exam, **make-up exams are not available**. I strongly recommend everyone save July 5th from 6 to 9 pm for the exam. Please contact me in advance if you have any unavoidable time conflicts with the final.

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes to keep yourself up-to-date and actively participate in our discussions. **You are also expected to be punctual and to not leave early.** You obtain 10 points for attending the entire class each time. If your absence is avoidable, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence.

Participation

You are expected to actively participate in class, during lecture and discussions. Participation will be consistently noted during class. You obtain 10 points for active participation in each class.

Grading Components & Scale

The full score for this course is 1,000. It is composed by:

Attendance	120
Active Participation	110
Quizzes	250
Discussion Leader	160
Discussion Reporter	60
Final Exam	300

Your total score, summing from the above components, will yield your final grade. The numerical score translates to the letter grade as follows:

A = 900 or above

B+ = 850-899

B = 800-849

C+ = 750-790

C = 700-749

D = 600-699

F = 599 or below

Extra Credit

Students may earn up to 30 extra credit points. You can choose either of them or combine them. All extra credit assignments are due on midnight July 6th, 2018 in your Drop Box on Sakai.

1. Article Summary: Choose one article recently published on one of the journals listed and write a 1-page summary and critique. Specifically, it should include what you think the important take-home message is (1 paragraph) and how you would either modify or enhance the research presented (1-2 paragraphs).

2. "I Found Examples": Find two real-life examples pertaining to topics we have covered. The examples can be obtained from online resources (e.g., videos, audios, or web) or your own experience. For each example, write a brief summary explaining the phenomenon (1 paragraph) and the underlying concept presented and how it relates to what you have learned in class (1 paragraph). The two examples should relate to different topics.

3. Participating in psychology research studies that take place at Rutgers. Research participation opportunities will be announced on Sakai or in class. There may be other experiments that are not announced in class. Check with me before you do an experiment not on the class announcements so I can determine whether the experiment counts. When you speak with me, you will have to provide a printout that gives the name of the experiment, the experimenter or lab that is conducting the experiment, and the affiliation of the experimenter (e.g., Rutgers Psychology Department).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Topics	Readings	Workloads
May 29 th	Introduction & Research Methods Cognitive Neurosciences	Syllabus Chapters 1 & 2 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng
May 31 st	Perception	Chapter 3 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students Quiz 1 due 12 AM, 6/3
June 5 th	Attention	Chapter 4 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students
June 7 th	Memory	Selective contents in Chapters 5-7 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students Quiz 2 due 12 AM, 6/10
June 12 th	Language	Chapters 9 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students
June 14 th	Language Acquisition	Chapters 9 in McBride & Cutting (2018) Papers (TBD)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students Quiz 3 due 12 AM, 6/17
June 19 th	Half-way Review & Discussion		Open Discussion Q & A
June 21 st	Concepts & Knowledge	Chapters 10 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students Quiz 4 due 12 AM, 6/24
June 26 th	Problem Solving	Chapters 11 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students
June 28 th	Decision Making	Chapters 12 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students Quiz 5 due 12 AM, 7/1
July 3 rd	Cognitive Development	Papers (TBA)	In-class discussion lead by Meng or Students
July 5 th	Final Exam		

Note: this schedule is subject to change.

Academic Integrity

As students and teachers, we are the guardians of knowledge for future generations. An implicit condition for your participation in this course is your acceptance of the principles defining academic integrity. Please familiarize yourselves with Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity, which includes cheating, fabrication (falsification), plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity, which can be found at:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. Anyone suspected of committing an act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee; **those found to have done so will, at the very least, receive a failing grade for the course.**

Student-Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/>

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.