

COGNITION

830:305:H6 - Summer 2018

Monday & Wednesday, 6:00-9:40 pm, 7/9/18 – 8/15/18, SEC-211

Last updated 6/29/18

Instructor: Mengxue Kang

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

Office Hours: By appointment

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, 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.

Required Textbook

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

Author: Dawn M. McBride and J. Cooper Cutting

Publisher: Sage

Edition: Second Edition

ISBN: 9781506383866

Recommended Textbook

Book title: Cognition

Author: Arnold Lewis Glass

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Edition: First Edition

ISBN: 978-1-107-08831-3

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.

Presentation: You will sign for one topic to present a recently published paper in class. You can find the paper yourselves, or I can assign you one. You are expected to read the paper beforehand and send your PowerPoints to **Mengxue at least 1 day before your presentation**. This is a good opportunity for you to learn what scientific papers look like and share what the state-of-the-art is in some topics. Your presentation should be 10-15 mins and it should include:

- Introduction
 - What is the question?
 - What did other studies do?
 - What is the hypothesis for this study?
- Method
 - Who are the participants?
 - What are the apparatus/stimuli?
 - What is the exact procedure?
 - What is the design? Like, what is the independent variable/ dependent variable?
- Results
- Discussion
 - What is the conclusion?
 - What can be improved?
- Your thought
 - Can you point out some similar situations that can also be examined?
 - Is there anything you can improve? Procedure? Adding one condition?

Exams: There will be 3 exams in class; each contains approximately 100 questions, mainly multiple-choice questions; sometimes true or false questions. Things covered in the lecture and in the required textbook will be tested in the exam. Exams are not cumulative.

Final Exam: There is **NO** final exam.

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 480. It is composed by: Attendance 90

Presentation 90

Exam1 : 100

Exam2 : 100

Exam3 : 100

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

A = 450 or above B+ = 420-449 B = 390-419 C+ = 360-389 C = 330-359 D = 300-329

F = 299 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 at 23:59 Aug 14th, 2018 in your Drop Box on Sakai.

- 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
July 9 th	Introduction & Research Methods Cognitive Neurosciences	Syllabus Chapters 1-2 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
July 11 st	Perception	Chapter 3 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
July 16 th	Attention	Chapter 4 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
July 18 th	Memory Structure	Chapters 5 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
July 23 rd	Exam 1		
July 25 th	Long-Term Memory & Memory Error	Chapters 6-7 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
July 30 th	Language	Chapters 9 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
Aug 1 st	Concepts & Knowledge	Chapters 10 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
Aug 6 th	Exam 2		
Aug 8 th	Problem Solving	Chapters 11 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
Aug 13 th	Reasoning and Decision Making	Chapters 12 in McBride & Cutting (2018)	
Aug 15 th	Exam 3		

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.