

COGNITION

830:305:B7

Summer 2020

Instructor: Elif Nur Poyraz, Cognitive Psychology PhD Student

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Please use your Rutgers University email address for all of your correspondence with me (@rutgers.edu or @scarletmail.rutgers.edu). I won't reply to emails sent from non-school email addresses. Please give me at least 24-36 hours to respond to your emails.

Office Hours: TBA, will be held via Webex or Zoom, the link will be provided.

Weekly Class Time: Tuesday-Thursday, 6-10 PM

I will record each lecture ahead of time and upload it to our course website. During the weekly class meetings, we will have discussions of the material covered in the prerecorded videos. For students possibly interested in joining the course from a different time zone, I don't require attendance since you're adults and it's your own responsibility; that being said, I recommend regular attendance.

Course Overview

Cognition is the study of how we pay **attention**, **perceive**, **think about** and **process** the world around us. In this class, we will examine more deeply what are the cognitive processes that take place when we are roaming around the world and reasoning about objects, entities and other human beings. The course will specifically have both an **adult-** and **development-oriented** approach in that we will take on the broader issues in Cognition that is established with studies on adults and look into the research in cognitive developmental field to try to better understand the roots of the mental processes human beings engage in.

Required Text & Materials

- I combine readings from different resources, so there isn't a single textbook for this class. We will have material both from book chapters and published scientific articles.
- Any necessary reading will be posted in our class Sakai site and will be available along with the prerecorded lectures.
- Any additional reading we will discuss will also be posted on Sakai.

Class Requirements & Grading

As the class will be remotely instructed and I think that it becomes a stressful event for both students and the instructors, there will be no regular exams. Instead, there will be few different components to the class which should contribute to the overall understanding and help keep up with the paced material regularly. This will also give lots of different opportunities to perform well.

I. Forum Posts (25%)

After watching the prerecorded lectures, you are required to post to that week's forum 1 day before each lecture. This posting could be anything that you found interesting and/or confusing about that lecture's material that you would like to discuss during our discussion session. There is no expected length to these questions or comments. Focus on learning from the material, not for the sake of being able to post a comment, but to really learn from it. As long as your motive is to learn, and you listen to the lecture carefully and keep up with the readings, you shouldn't worry about performing well in these postings (in fact, in general).

II. Weekly Assessments (50%)

There will be weekly Sakai Quizzes (Short Assessments). They will be available for 12-15 hours (specific time window to be announced) and will be 45 mins- 1 hour long.

Some rules for Quizzes:

1. Quizzes will be open-book. You may consult your class notes, and readings.
2. BUT, the answers have to be your own. You may not communicate in any way with anyone.
3. Once you've seen the questions, please keep it to yourself. You may not share them with anyone else.
4. If there is a medical emergency or a work-related problem, you may take a make-up. You need to let me know about the problem before the Quiz closes.

III. Written Assignments (25%)

There will be two brief essays assigned over the course of the term. There will be available list of readings related to each topic we will cover that you can pick and choose to write on. This is to ensure that everybody gets to do what interests them the most. More details about the essays will be given at the time of assignment announcement.

IV. Attendance

We won't have synchronous instruction during our regular meeting time, but rather will have live discussion sessions. I will be uploading prerecorded lectures (each ~ 1 – 1,5 hours long) to Sakai in advance of our regular class time. The discussion would serve as a platform to engage in and learn more from the material covered. The meetings will either be held via Zoom or Webex.

Since there are no exams, also no need for trying to memorize everything. Following from the same idea, I don't require attendance; however, I do recommend it. Since it's a summer course, it's paced. It would be very easy to fall behind and even more difficult to catch up.

V. Extra Credit (up to 10%)

You can earn up to 10% extra credit if you volunteer to present an article that we have as an assigned reading. This presentation can be done with Power Point slides by sharing your screen, or you can prepare handouts and we can distribute it to the class before our discussion session. This doesn't require you to join via a video call, if you don't feel comfortable doing that or don't have the access to a webcam. If you have any concerns of not being able to do this even though you want to take the opportunity due to technical limitations, please contact me and we will see how we can resolve it and go around the obstacles!

Academic Integrity

All students are required to comply with the University's Academic Integrity Policy, as presented at [this Rutgers website](#). Familiarize yourselves with terms like plagiarism to help avoid doing it. Plagiarism ***will not*** be tolerated.

Tentative Class Schedule

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1	Tue, 5/26	Introduction & Roots of Cognitive Psychology	Hunt & Ellis, CH1
2	Thu, 5/28	Perception	Goldstein, CH3; Sternberg & Wagner, CH3
3	Tue, 6/2	Attention	Goldstein, CH4; Treisman
4	Thu, 6/4	Short-Term Memory	Reed, CH4
5	Tue, 6/9	Long-Term Memory	Reed, CH5
6	Thu, 6/11	Metacognition	Hunt & Ellis, CH8
7	Tue, 6/16	Knowledge	Goldstein, CH9
8	Thu, 6/18	Visual Imagery & Cognitive Maps	Goldstein, CH10; Matlin, CH12
9	Tue, 6/23	Reasoning & Decision Making	Sternberg & Sternberg, CH12
10	Thu, 6/25	Language	Reed, CH10
11	Tue, 6/30	Morality	TBA
12	Thu, 7/2	Wrap-up	

Important Note: 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. This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Changes will be announced via Sakai.