

# Cognition 305:04

Syllabus Spring 2014

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## **Class time and location**

Rutgers University Psychology 01:830:305:01  
Spring 2014 semester  
Tue & Fri 8:40-10am  
SEC 111 (Busch Campus)

## **Course Description**

Cognitive Psychology is the science of thought. We will cover topics including perception, attention, memory, concept formation, judgment and decision making, expertise, creativity, and others. For each of these topics, you will be able to recognize and recall important empirical findings and theories, evaluate experimental evidence as it applies to theories of cognitive processing, and analyze events in your own life in terms of cognitive processes. Prerequisite: 01:830:101

## **Course Materials:**

### **Textbook**

Cognitive Psychology - connecting mind, research, and everyday experience.  
Author: E. Bruce Goldstein  
Publisher: Wadsworth Cengage learning  
Edition: Third Edition  
ISBN-10: 0840033559 ISBN-13: 9780840033550

## **Additional Readings**

Additional readings will be posted on Sakai

## **Lecture slides**

Partial lecture slides will be posted on Sakai. These slides will not include all of the materials presented during lectures.

## **Assessments:**

### **Exams**

There will be a total of 4 exams for this class including the final exam. The final exam is cumulative, covering the entire semester.

Some exams will be given in the class room, and some exams will be given online using Sakai. The exam format will be announced well in advance of the upcoming exam. The final exam will be given in-class on the scheduled day.

Exams will be in the format of multiple choice, short answer, fill in the blank, matching, and essay. Exam questions will come from both the lecture and the readings.

You **must** take the first 3 exams. There are NO make-up exams, instead the lowest exam grade is

dropped. Only the 3 highest exam scores count toward your grade. The final exam is optional and can be used to replace the score of any previous exam or to replace a missed exam. If your score on the final exam is your lowest score, then the final exam grade will be the one that is dropped. If you miss a scheduled exam you will need to provide a valid/documented excuse (see section below for authenticating your excuse). Any other tests will be given in the finals week and will be in the essay format.

**Paper**

The application paper is a chance for you to apply theories and experiments you have learned about in cognitive psychology to your own life. The paper should be relatively short (2-3 pages). More details will be available on Sakai.

**Extra credit**

There are several different ways in which you can earn extra credit.

1)

For each block of material covered on each exam you will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by writing 1 multiple choice exam question, 1 fill in the blank question **and** 1 essay question. You must provide the answer to each question. Out of all of the questions submitted for this assignment at least one of these will appear on the subsequent exam. The three questions are due one week prior to the exam that the questions pertain to. Each triplet of questions is worth up to **3** points for a total of **12** possible points.

For example: the block of material covered on exam 1 covers Introduction, Perception and Attention. You will need to design three questions to cover this material (and provide the answers!). The assignments and due dates will be posted on Sakai.

2)

Supplemental materials to the textbook and lectures will be posted on Sakai. These might take the form of journal articles and/or short videos and will relate to topics covered in the textbook and in lecture. Sometimes the supplemental material will expand on a specific concept, and sometimes the supplemental material will provide additional information to help you think about a given topic. You can earn extra credit by reading/viewing the supplemental material and completing a short assessment. Each assessment will be worth between 2-5 points for a total of 11 possible points. The assignments and due dates will be posted on Sakai.

**Grading**

Your grade will be based on exams, a paper and extra credit (if you choose).

Activity	Maximum point value
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Final exam	100
Paper	75
Extra credit	20
<b>Total possible points</b>	<b>395</b>

Your grade	Points
A	337 and up
B+	323-363
B	298-322
C+	285-297
C	260-284
D	221-259
F	below-220

**Schedule**

Topics and chapters will be covered on the dates assigned in the schedule. Additional readings might be assigned. Please check Sakai for notices of additional readings. Material not covered in the textbook or listed in the schedule might be covered in lectures.

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 21, 24	Introduction, Perception	Chap 1, Chap 3
Jan 28, 31	Perception, Attention	Chap 4
Jan Feb 4	Attention	
Feb 7	Exam 1	
Feb 11, 14	Short term & working memory	Chap 5
Feb 18	Long term memory	Chap 6, 7 & 8
Feb 21	NO CLASS	
Feb 25, 28	Long term memory	
Mar 4	Errors in memory	
Mar 7	NO CLASS	
Mar 11	Exam 2	
Mar 14	Knowledge	
Mar 18, 21	Spring Break	
Mar 25, 28	Knowledge	
Apr 1	Visual imagery	Chap 10
Apr 4	NO CLASS	
Apr 8, 11	Visual imagery	
Apr 15	Exam 3	
Apr 18	Problem solving	Chap 12
Apr 22, 25	Problem solving, Reasoning	Chap 13
Apr 29, May 2	Reasoning and Decision Making	
May 13	Final exam	8-11AM

## NOTE

Any and all information contained in this syllabus is subject to change.  
 Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email notification.  
 Updates to the syllabus will also be posted on Sakai.

### Authentication of Absence

To provide the documentation for a valid excused absence, you will need to get your note authenticated by the Dean of Students Office (this is to protect your medical confidentiality) by following the directions below:

On the Rutgers website

<http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/courses/registration-and-course-policies>

under the heading in the left column:

*Attendance and Cancellation of Classes*

<http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/courses/registration-and-course-policies/attendance-and-cancellation-of-class>

You will find the following policy:

"Students may obtain a note from the Office of the Dean of Students to authenticate an extended absence that is supported by appropriate documentation".

There is also a link to the Office of the Dean of Students by clicking on the highlighted text.

### Academic Honesty Policies

Cheating, plagiarism or any other violations of the university's policy on academic integrity will not be tolerated in this class.

Please visit this link to view the university's policies [Academic Honesty Policies](#)

### Students with Disabilities

Our community values diversity and seeks to promote meaningful access to educational opportunities for all students. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please follow these procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html> Since accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, please initiate this process as soon as possible.