Syllabus

Updated 10/28/2018

Course: Cognitive Psychology, U09-Psychology 359

Semester: Spring 2019

Description: An overview of cognitive psychology, particularly from an information processing perspective. The course includes discussions of perception, attention, memory, reasoning, problem solving and language.

A term paper is required

Prerequisite: Psychology 100

Instructor: David Crowley, dcrowley@wustl.edu (314) 378-5173


Content Management System: Canvas – Use WUSTL Key

Weekly Course Schedule:

1. Course Intro & Cognitive Science (Ch 1) – Jan 15
2. Perception: (Ch2) – Jan 22
3. Attention, Performance & Mental Imagery (Ch 3-4) – Jan 29
4. Representation of Knowledge (Ch 5) – Feb 5
5. **Exam 1 – Feb 12**
6. Memory: Encoding and Storage I (Ch 6) – Feb 19
7. Memory: Retention and Retrieval (Ch 7) - Feb 26
8. Problem Solving (Ch 8) – Mar 5
   **Spring Break - Mar 12**
9. Expertise (Ch 9) - Mar 19 (**Term paper proposal due**)
10. Reasoning (Ch 10) – Mar 26
11. **Exam 2 – Apr 2**
12. Decision Making (Ch 11) – Apr 9
13. Language structure (Ch 12) – Apr 16
14. Language Comprehension (Ch 13) - Apr 23
15. Individual Cognitive Differences (Ch 14) (**Term paper due**) – Apr 30
16. **Exam 3 – May 7**
**Grade Percentages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper Proposal</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper Final</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Online Quizzes</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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**Grade Conversion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>73.00</td>
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<td>70.00</td>
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**Learning Objectives**

1. Learn the historical development and current status of cognitive science.
2. Understand the methods of research used support cognitive science.
3. Develop writing skills for scientific papers.
4. Acquire the ability to think critically about the application of research findings to an understanding of cognitive processes.

**Course Format**

1. The two hours of each session will be devoted to discussion of course content and lecture material presented by the instructor.
2. There will be an online quiz for the material in each chapter to be completed by the next class meeting following coverage of the chapter.
3. A term paper on a topic mutually agreeable to the student and instructor is required.
4. There will be three exams covering four-five chapters each.
5. All class materials will be managed through Canvas, Washington University’s online course management system.

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is required. Please notify me before the start of class if you are unable to attend due to some work or family-related emergency. You are expected to participate actively in class discussions.

**Weekly Online Quizzes**

1. Each non-exam week there will be a quiz on the Canvas website on the chapter(s) that we covered in class.
2. To complete these quizzes you may use any resources EXCEPT other people. That is, don’t collaborate. Use the book, the internet, or whatever you want, but do it on your own.
3. The quizzes are HOMEWORK intended to help you learn. Each week’s quiz will be available before class (Tuesday night), and must be completed by 11:59 pm on the following Monday. There is no time limit on the quizzes as long as you finish by the deadline.
4. You make retake the quizzes as often as you like but only the highest score achieved by the due date and time will be counted.
5. Your final quiz grade will be based on the average of the highest scoring 13 of the 14 quizzes.
6. There will be no makeup quizzes.

**Term Paper**

A research paper of 2000-3000 words is required on a topic relating to the theory and experimental evidence underlying a documented cognitive phenomenon. The paper must follow APA style guidelines including proper citations to peer-reviewed scientific research. Specific guidance including grading criteria and examples will be supplied. A proposal for the term paper is required early in the course.

**Exams**

1. Exams will be taken during the normal class times on the dates given in the course schedule.
2. There will be three multiple-choice exams, one after each set of 5 chapters. Each exam will focus primarily on the 4-5 chapters just covered, but will also contain a few questions from earlier chapters. Exams will consist of questions based on both lecture material and the assigned readings.
3. If you are absent for an exam, you will get a score of 0. If illness or other extraordinary circumstances will prevent you from being present for an exam, you must notify me BEFORE THE EXAM. If I consider the absence excusable, you will be able to arrange a make-up exam within one week of the original exam date. Make-up exams are administered by appointment in the University College office.
4. If you feel that an item on your test has been graded incorrectly, you may submit the Item Review Form (posted on Canvas), and I will re-grade the item in question.
Classroom Etiquette/Logistics

1. Be mentally present. I will strive to not be boring.
2. Do your part to minimize distraction. Silence your cell phone, no texting.
3. Laptops (muted) are okay for note-taking.
4. Food and drink are OK as long as they don’t cause distraction.
5. We usually take a break hallway through the 2-hour class.
6. Ask questions. Speak up whenever you have questions, don’t understand something, have answers, or have ideas. Asking questions is a sign of wisdom!

Accommodations and Assistance
For general academic assistance, consult your academic advisor and take advantage of Cornerstone's wide variety of student resources: [http://cornerstone.wustl.edu](http://cornerstone.wustl.edu) (314-935-5970). If you require special accommodations due to medical reasons for lecture or for taking exams please contact the Disability Resources Coordinator at Cornerstone.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with the University’s policy on academic integrity. If you are uncertain about what constitutes a violation of the policy, ask the instructor, or access the policy at: [http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html](http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html)

Course Evaluation

You should plan on participating in the course evaluation at the end of the semester and may do so by visiting: [http://evals.wustl.edu](http://evals.wustl.edu)