

Psychology 2210Q

Cognition: Basic Processes

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This syllabus may change before the start of the class.

Class meets: Tuesday and Thursdays, 5:30-8:40pm
July 6th through August 10th
We will have a make up meeting on July 21 to make up for the Independence Day Holiday. This will be the date of the midterm exam.

Course description: This course will cover theories of how the mind works from the perspective of cognitive psychology. We will cover topics in thinking and information processing, learning, language, memory, attention, creativity, judgment and decision making and consciousness. Various theories and selected experiments will be described and discussed. In addition to readings from the textbook, each week we will read at least one scientific journal related to the current topic and discuss the experimental findings in class.

Course objectives: The objective of this course is to introduce and familiarize students with the field of cognitive psychology. We are not passive recipients of phenomenon in the world and thus, one goal of this class is to acquaint students with how the brain interprets, processes and manipulates information. By the end of the course students should be able to think critically about scientific journal articles and be able to fluently critique the methods and conclusions of the experimental findings.

Textbook: Sternberg, R.J. (2006). Cognitive Psychology, 4th Ed. Thomson Wadworth.
Additional readings and research articles will be posted on Courseworks.

Course requirements:

Grades will be based on 2 in-class quizzes, a midterm, a final (short 10 page) paper, one class presentation, weekly discussion questions and participation. The breakdown of the grades is listed below. Each Thursday we will discuss a scientific journal article related to the current topic. On Wednesday, before 6pm, each student is expected to post 2 discussion questions to Courseworks about the article for discussion at the next class meeting. Participation will be based on class attendance and contribution to class discussions. The midterm exam will be made up of multiple choice, short answer and at least one essay. The final paper is a short research/review paper, that compares at least 2 findings in the cognitive literature. Two sources that were not discussed in class are expected to be cited in the paper. More details on writing and researching the paper will be discussed in class.

Grade breakdown:

- 2 Quizzes 10 % each
- 1 Midterm 25%
- 1 Final paper 30%
- 1 Class presentation 10%
- Weekly discussion questions 10%
- Participation 5%

Schedule

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic/Reading:</u>
1	July 6	Introduction, History of the field and Class Overview Chapter 1 & 2
2	July 11	Perception Chapter 4 readings TBA
3	July 13	Attention Chapter 3 Quiz I readings TBA
4	July 18	Mental Representations Chapter 7 & 8 readings TBA
5	July 20	Memory I Chapters 5 & 6 readings TBA
6	July 21	Midterm
7	July 25	Memory II Assignments: Chapters 5 & 6 readings TBA Memento
8	July 27	Language I Chapter 9 readings TBA
9	August 1	Language II

		Chapter 10 Quiz II readings TBA
10	August 3	Metacognition readings TBA
11	August 7	Judgment and Decision Making Chapter 12 readings TBA
12	August 10	Consciousness Class wrap up Final paper due readings TBA