



Psychology 365 - L01

Cognitive Psychology

Fall 2014

Instructor:	Dr. Glen Bodner	Lecture Location:	SA 106
Phone:	403-220-2714 (no callbacks)	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 9:30-10:45 am
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Office:	AD 235B	TA Office:	AD 135
Office Hours:	Email to arrange an appointment	TA Office Hours:	T 2-3 pm

Course Description (from Calendar)

A survey of research and theory in cognitive psychology. Research in pattern recognition, attention, memory, language, thinking, and other cognitive abilities is explored, with discussion of associated brain mechanisms.

Prerequisites

Psyc 200 and 201 – Principles of Psychology I and II (or equivalent)

Required Text

Smilek, D., Sinnett, S., & Kingstone, A. (2013). *Cognition*. (5th Edition). Oxford University Press Canada. [Available in UofC Bookstore; buy a *Discovery Labs for Cognition* code if using a used copy of text]

Evaluation

Tests/exams (75% of final grade). There will be 3 multiple-choice tests (15% of final grade each) and 1 cumulative multiple-choice final exam (30% of final grade); each may include material from the text, lectures, assigned articles, and Discovery Labs experiments. No outside materials are permitted.

Test/Exam	Text chapters	# Questions	Duration	% of final grade	Date
Test 1	1-3	30	50 min	15	
Test 2	4-6	30	50 min	15	
Test 3	7-9	30	50 min	15	
Final exam	1-9 10-11, 13	30 30	120 min	30	TBA (Dec 8-18)

Article Assignment 1 (10% of final grade; 4 double-spaced pages). The purpose of this assignment is to give students an opportunity to read and synthesize current research findings and to relate them to research described in the text. Obtain an *empirical* journal article (i.e., one with Method and Results sections that report an original experiment) referenced in the textbook that interests you and that no one else has chosen (else you will receive 0%; a sign-up sheet will be provided in class so check the list

carefully). Then, using PsycInfo (or another source), find a second empirical journal article that cites this article and/or that investigates a similar research topic/question from a cognitive perspective. These are Articles 1 and 2. In Part 1 of your paper (2 double-spaced pages; 5%), introduce the topic, describe one of the experiments in Article 1, and explain how it contributes our understanding of the cognitive process covered in the text chapter in which it was cited. In Part 2 of your paper (2 double-spaced pages; 5%), describe one of the experiments in Article 2, and explain how it contributes our understanding of the cognitive process over and above Article 1. Papers must be completed using the **ArticleAssignment1-template.docx** file posted in D2L. Papers must be printed and submitted in class on the due date (see Tentative Lecture Schedule). Late (or early) papers must be addressed to the TA (not to the instructor) and submitted via the green box outside AD 255. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Late papers will be accepted only if received within 1 week of the due date, and will be penalized 5% out of 100% (e.g., a 76% grade = B will become a 71% grade = C+). You can begin the assignment any time, so exceptions to the late penalty will not be made.

Article Assignment 2 (15% of final grade; 4 double-spaced pages). This assignment gives students an opportunity to build their writing and critical thinking skills following feedback on Article Assignment 1. Students will read and critique a recent research article in cognitive psychology and design a novel and informative follow-up experiment that will further our understanding of a cognitive process. Obtain an *empirical* journal article published in 2010-14 that focuses on understanding a cognitive process that interests you and that no one else has chosen (else you will receive 0%; a sign-up sheet will be provided in class so check the list carefully). In Part 1 of your paper (2 double-spaced pages; 5%), introduce the topic, describe one of the experiments in Article 1, and explain how it contributes our understanding of a cognitive process. In Part 2 of your paper (2 double-spaced pages; 10%), critique the experiment and/or discuss its limitations and then propose an original follow-up experiment that would address your concerns and further our understanding of the cognitive process. Papers must be completed using the **ArticleAssignment2-template.docx** file posted in D2L. Papers must be printed and submitted in class on the due date (see Tentative Lecture Schedule). Late (or early) papers must be addressed to the TA (not to the instructor) and submitted via the green box outside AD 255. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Late papers will be accepted only if received within 1 week of the due date, and will be penalized 5% out of 100% (e.g., a 76% grade = B will become a 71% grade = C+). To ensure you complete the assignment on time, begin as soon as your first assignment grade and feedback are received. Exceptions to the late penalty will not be made.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% becomes 90% = A, but 89.4% becomes 89% = A-).

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic (Text Chapter)	Assignment due dates
T Sept 9	Intro to course/The science of the mind (Ch 1)	
R Sept 11	The science of the mind (Ch 1)	
T Sept 16	Methods of cog psych (Ch 2)	
R Sept 18	Methods of cog psych (Ch 2)	
T Sept 23	Perception (Ch 3)	
R Sept 25	Perception (Ch 3)	
T Sept 30	Attention (Ch 4)	
R Oct 2	Test 1 (Chs 1-3, 15%)	
T Oct 7	Attention (Ch 4)	
R Oct 9	Memory traces (Ch 5)	Article Assignment 1 due (10%)
T Oct 14	Memory traces (Ch 5)	
R Oct 16	Memory systems (Ch 6)	
T Oct 21	Memory systems (Ch 6)	
R Oct 23	Imagery (Ch 7)	
T Oct 28	Test 2 (Chs 4-6, 15%)	
R Oct 30	Knowledge (Ch 8)	
T Nov 4	Knowledge (Ch 8)	
R Nov 6	Language (Ch 9)	
Nov 8-11	Reading Days and Thanksgiving Day. No lectures.	
R Nov 13	Language (Ch 9)	Article Assignment 2 due (15%)
T Nov 18	Problem solving (Ch 10)	
R Nov 20	Test 3 (Chs 7-9, 15%) – Bodner at a conference	
T Nov 25	Problem solving (Ch 10)	
R Nov 27	Reasoning, judgment, and choice (Ch 11)	
T Dec 2	Reasoning, judgment, and choice (Ch 11)	
R Dec 4	Personal cognition (Ch 13)	
Dec 8-18	Cumulative Final Exam (Chs 1-9, 10-11, 13; 30%)	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that

warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 5, 2014**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Friday, September 19, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Monday, September 22, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2014**.