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Psychology 365 (L02) – Cognitive Psychology, Fall 2012 – Course Outline

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Ian Hargreaves	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	ST 143
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-5220 (no callbacks)	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF at 14:00 – 14:50
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ishargre@ucalgary.ca">ishargre@ucalgary.ca</a> (I will aim to reply to emails within 2 weekdays)	<b>TA:</b>	
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 060 (Neuroimaging Analysis Centre)	<b>TA Office:</b>	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday 1-3 (or by appointment)	<b>TA Office Hours:</b>	

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### Course Description and Goals

The purpose of this course is to provide students with exposure to many of the primary areas within cognitive psychology, focusing on pattern recognition, attention, memory, language, thinking and other cognitive mechanisms. In order to successfully survey research and theory across these diverse sets of areas, this course makes heavy use of textbook readings. Fortunately, the course textbook features a narrative style that benefits the learner by using real-world examples in order to situate cognitive research and theory in the world around us. You can also expect the lecturer to, whenever appropriate, tie these areas into examples of cognitive psychology in modern research, neuroscience, and also into reports from venues such as TED talks, CBC and NPR radio, and even satirical news programs.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Engage with a diverse set of research topics spanning cognitive psychology.
2. Explain how these topics apply to our advancing understanding of the mind and of the brain.
3. Understand the relevance of cognitive psychology in providing a systematic treatment of the mind, and the relevance of this method in understanding basic mental functions.
4. Grasp of the cognitive mechanisms which form the foundation of the expanding field of cognitive neuroscience.

### Prerequisites

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology

### Required Text

Reisberg, D. (2010). *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind*. (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York, NY: Norton.  
[Available in University Bookstore packaged with Workbook and Zaps – ISBN 978-0-393-19851-5]

## Evaluation

- A. *Exams*: There will be **three exams** in the course. The exams are **not cumulative**. Exams will include multiple-choice questions, and will **cover both lecture and textbook material**. Access to textbooks and/or class notes will not be permitted during exams (including the final exam). A failing grade will *not* automatically fail the course, however, a student with a failing mark is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor of record to discuss strategies for success throughout the remainder of the course.

Test	Text content	% of Final Grade	Date
1 (multiple choice)	Chapters 1-5	20	W Oct 10
2 (multiple choice)	Chapters 6-10	30	W Nov 7
3 (multiple choice)	Chapters 11-15	30	TBA

- B. *APA Research Paper (15 % of Final Grade)*: Papers should be submitted at the START of class on the assigned due date. Papers must be 6 pages double-spaced with 1 inch margins, and must use 12 point Times New Roman font. Late (or early) papers will be accepted only via the green box outside A275. 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 10% for each day that the paper is late.

**You will be randomly assigned to one of three topic areas, each with a corresponding due date (listed below).**

Topic Area	Topics Covered	Paper Due Date
1	Recognition, Attention, Working Memory	October 12 <sup>th</sup>
2	Memory Retrieval, Memory for Complex Events, Long-term Memory, Concepts, Language	November 14 <sup>th</sup>
3	Visual Knowledge, Judgement, Reasoning, Problem-solving, Consciousness	December 7 <sup>th</sup>

Your assignment will be to identify (and read) a scientific report from a popular media source (e.g. newspaper article, radio, tv, internet news broadcast, or brief magazine article). **This report must be within your designated topic area.** Next, using PsycInfo, Web of Science, Google Scholar, or another means, you will identify and read the source article that the popular media report/article is based on. In your paper, you will be asked to assess the similarities and differences in the take home messages of these two reports. You will then read and analyze one (1) additional empirical, peer reviewed article that addresses the topic in some way, and will relate these findings to the original paper, while making suggestions for future research.

- C. *Zaps (5 Zaps labs x 1% each = 5% of Final Grade)*: **You will do 10 online Zaps experiments during the term** for participation marks. At random, **5** of these will be used to compute this mark. You must do each Zaps lab no sooner than a week before, and no later than 9 am of the

date indicated on the class schedule or you will receive a zero for that Zaps lab. You will not receive credit if your lab data are invalid, so do not respond randomly.

Steps to register using Zaps ([www.wwnorton.com/ZAPS](http://www.wwnorton.com/ZAPS)):

1. Register. To register, you need a registration code from inside the Zaps card that comes with your textbook package. If your text is used, you need to buy a new passcode (see [www.wwnorton.com/college/psych/zaps/students.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/psych/zaps/students.htm) for details). You also need a Class ID which I will email to the email account that is connected to the UofC/Blackboard.
2. Set your Student ID to your UCID. Once you login to your account, you MUST fill out the Student ID section with your UCID, then click "Save Changes". **If you do not enter your UCID your Zaps data will not match up to my gradebook and you will receive a zero on all Zaps labs.** This process will be demonstrated at the start of term.
3. Do each Zaps as scheduled. Log in to <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/psych/zaps/students.htm> and begin the assigned Zaps. Read the instructions carefully, and make sure to take notes from the experience to further discussion about the lab in class.

#### 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% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

#### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Text Chapter	Zaps Participation Deadline
M Sep 10	<b>Lecture begins.</b> - Course Overview/Introduction	Chapter 1 pp 3-13	
W Sep 12	Topic Area Selection/The Science of the Mind	Chapter 1 pp 3-13	
F Sep 14	The Neural Basis for Cognition	Chapter 2	
M Sep 17	The Neural Basis for Cognition	Chapter 2	
W Sep 19	The Neural Basis for Cognition	Chapter 2	
F Sep 21	Recognizing Objects in the World <b>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</b>	Chapter 3	Split-Brain

M Sep 24	Recognizing Objects in the World <i>Last day for add or swap courses.</i>	Chapter 3	Word Superiority
W Sep 26	Recognizing Objects in the World	Chapter 3	
F Sep 28	Paying Attention	Chapter 4	
M Oct 1	Paying Attention	Chapter 4	Stroop
W Oct 3	Acquisition of Memories/The Working Memory System	Chapter 1 pp 14-22 Chapter 5	
F Oct 5	Acquisition of Memories/The Working Memory System	Chapter 1 pp 14-22 Chapter 5	Serial Position Task
M Oct 8	<b>Thanksgiving Day. No lecture. University closed.</b>		
<b>W Oct 10</b>	<b>Test #1</b>	<b>Chapters 1-5</b>	
F Oct 12	Interconnections between Acquisition and Retrieval	Chapter 6	<b>Topic Area 1 Papers Due</b>
M Oct 15	Interconnections between Acquisition and Retrieval	Chapter 6	
W Oct 17	Remembering Complex Events	Chapter 7	False Memory
F Oct 28	Remembering Complex Events	Chapter 7	
M Oct 22	Remembering Complex Events	Chapter 7	
W Oct 24	Theories of Long-Term Memory	Chapter 8	Fan Effect
F Oct 26	Theories of Long-Term Memory	Chapter 8	
M Oct 29	Concepts and Generic Knowledge	Chapter 9	Sentence Verification
W Oct 31	Concepts and Generic Knowledge	Chapter 9	
F Nov 2	Language	Chapter 10	Implicit Learning
M Nov 5	Language	Chapter 10	
<b>W Nov 7</b>	<b>Test #2</b>	<b>Chapters 6-10</b>	
F Nov 9	<b>Reading days. No lecture.</b>		
M Nov 12	<b>Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed</b>		
W Nov 14	Visual Knowledge	Chapter 11	Mental Rotation 3-D <b>Topic Area 2 Papers Due</b>
F Nov 16	<b>No in-class session – Watch Assigned TED Lecture</b>		
M Nov 19	Visual Knowledge	Chapter 11	
W Nov 21	Judgment: Drawing Conclusions from Evidence	Chapter 12	
F Nov 23	Judgment: Drawing Conclusions from Evidence	Chapter 12	
M Nov	Reasoning: Implications of What you Know	Chapter 13	Wason Selection Task

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W Nov 28	Reasoning: Implications of What you Know	Chapter 13	
F Nov 30	Solving Problems/Creativity	Chapter 14	
M Dec 3	Solving Problems/Creativity	Chapter 14	
W Dec 5	Consciousness	Chapter 15	
F Dec 7	Consciousness <b><i>Fall Term Lectures End. - Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.</i></b>	Chapter 15	<b><i>Topic Area 3 Papers Due</i></b>
<b>Dec 10-19</b>	<b><i>Fall Term Exam Period</i></b>	<b>Final Exam to be Scheduled by the Registrar: Chapters 11-15</b>	

### **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. 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.

### **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 275), 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

### **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 [suyvaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913 [socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Sep 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.