



Department of Psychology
Psychology 365 (L29) – Cognitive Psychology
Spring 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Dr. Raymond Gunter	Lecture Location:	PF 126
Phone:	403-220-2242	Lecture Days/Time:	S 08:00-12:30
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Office:	Admin. 257D		
Office Hours:	S 12:30-13:00		

Course Description and Goals

By using your cognitive processes (e.g., working memory, problem-solving, elaborative rehearsal, maybe a little repetition priming ... What, you say, there's ALREADY a test and this is only the course outline?!), you will learn and hopefully remember lots of interesting and important things about your cognitive processes. From the 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.* I adhere to this description.

Prerequisites

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology

Required Text

Reisberg (2009). *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind*. Norton. (in bookstore)

Evaluation

There will be 2 term tests (33.3% each) and a final exam (33.3%). This testing scheme (again, two term tests and a final ... repetition aids memory under some conditions!) is *non-negotiable* (in other words, I will not respond to requests that an exam be dropped, etc. etc.). All are non-cumulative multiple-choice tests based on lectures AND text chapters: Non-cumulative meaning that once you have been tested on a given chunk of material, it will not appear on subsequent exams. Some text material will not be covered in class, and some lecture material will not be covered elsewhere, but *both* are fair game for the tests/exam. Therefore you must read your text and come to class! *Absolutely no make-up term tests will be given.* If you miss a term test, you receive a zero unless you provide me with a completed Physician/Counsellor Statement within 1 week of the test. If your documented reason for your absence is acceptable, the weight of the missed test will be added to the next test/exam. If you miss the final exam, contact the Registrar's office (403-220-5522) to apply for an official deferred exam. You must write 1 of the 2 term tests as scheduled, and you must write the final exam, otherwise you automatically fail the course without exception (F grade). Sounds harsh, perhaps, but one must keep in mind the need to be fair to all those who *do* complete all course requirements. Sure, life does happen

sometimes, but please do yourself a favor and do your best to be one of those people who completes all exams.

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/Readings
S May 1	Chapters 1,2,3: Introduction to cognition, Neural basis of cognition, Perception/Object recognition
F May 7	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund. Last day for registration/change of registration.
S May 8	Chapters 4,5: Attention, Short-term memory/Working memory
S May 15	Term Test 1 (first part of class), Chapter 6: Long-term memory
S May 22	No classes. University closed. (Victoria Day holiday)
S May 29	Chapters 7,8,9: Memory errors, Knowledge
S Jun 5	Term Test 2 (first part of class), Chapter 10: Language
S Jun 12	Chapters 11,12,13: Visual knowledge, Judgments, Reasoning
S Jun 19	Chapters 14,15: Problem-solving, Consciousness
R Jun 24	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.
S Jun 26	Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar).

Term Test 1 covers Chapters 1 through 5, and all associated lectures.

Term Test 2 covers Chapters 6 through 9, and all associated lectures.

The Final Exam covers Chapters 10 through 15, and (you guessed it) the associated lectures.

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.

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 (2) 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 **June 24th, 2010**.

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 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

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

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **May 7th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **May 7th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Jun 19th, 2010**.