

PSYC 317-005: Cognitive Psychology
Fall 2006, Tuesday 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.
Innovation Hall 105

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Office Hours: Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., or by appointment

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Class Website: <http://archlab.gmu.edu/~jwong1/psyc317/005-index.html>

Textbook (required): Goldstein, E. B. (2005). *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience (1st Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Course Objective: Students will gain an introduction to the field of cognitive psychology. Cognitive psychology is the study of how the mind perceives, attends to, remembers, and interacts with the world. The mental processes that will be examined include perception, attention, memory, language, decision making, and problem solving. During this course, each topic will be explored by investigating theories and results from different laboratory experiments and computer simulations. By the end of the course, students should have an appreciation for the complexity of the mind and how it contributes to our knowledge of the world.

Important Dates: Last day to add - Sep. 12th Last day to drop - Sep. 29th Final Exam – Dec 12th

Course Information:

1. This class will be a combination of lecture and class discussion. Class discussion and participation in class activities will count for 10% of your grade. It may take me a while to learn your name, so please bear with me. In order to prepare for class, the assigned reading should be completed before attending class.
2. There will be 3 non-cumulative exams throughout the semester. They will all be generated from the book and lectures. Each exam will count towards 25% of your grade (for a total of 75%) and will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions. Make-up exams will not be given unless there is a documented emergency and will consist completely of essay questions.
3. Another 15% of your grade will be based on a paper summarizing a cognitive psychology article. The paper should be five pages in length and is due on **November 14**. For each day the paper is late, you will be penalized 10% on the paper grade. More information about the article summary can be found on the class website.
4. You may earn up to an extra 3% on your final grade by participating in extra credit experiments. Each hour of participation is worth 0.5%. Opportunities for participation can be found at <http://www.experimetrix.com/gmu>.

5. Final grades will be calculated based on the three exams and the article summary. Grades will be calculated and classified on standard scale: **A (90-100)/B (80-89)/C (70-79)/D (60-69)/F (0-59)**. A curve will be applied according to a statistical procedure that places the B/C borderline at the class average and then uses the class standard deviation to determine other grade cutoffs. Therefore, like any curving procedure, the actual grading scale is based on the performance of others in your class. **Any letter grades given on individual exams or assignments are only for your information and may not reflect final class grades.**

6. I will be presenting lectures via PowerPoint. Slides for each class will be available for downloading from the class website in PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the slides.

7. Students are expected to comply with the George Mason University Honor Code. Students should refer to the University Catalog for a complete explanation of Honor Code regulations. Honor Code violations will not be tolerated in this class.

8. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	READING	DESCRIPTION
Aug 29	Chapter 1	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
Sep 5	Chapter 2	Methods of Cognitive Psychology
Sep 12	Chapter 3	Perception
Sep 19	Chapter 4	Attention
Sep 26	-----	EXAM 1
Oct 3	Chapter 5	Sensory Memory, Short-Term Memory, and Working Memory
<i>Oct 10</i>	-----	<i>COLUMBUS DAY – NO CLASS</i>
Oct 17	Chapter 6	Long-Term Memory
Oct 24	Chapter 7	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors
Oct 31	Chapter 8	Knowledge
Nov 7	-----	EXAM 2
Nov 14	Chapter 9	Visual Imagery -- PAPER DUE
Nov 21	Chapter 11	Problem Solving
Nov 28	Chapter 12	Reasoning and Decision Making
Dec 5	Chapter 10	Language & Special Topic
Dec 12	-----	EXAM 3 (FINAL EXAM: 7:30 – 10:15 PM)