

Psychology 317 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2006

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Office hours: Thursday 2:00-4:00

Meeting times: Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-1:15, Robinson Hall B220

Texts: Anderson, J.R. (2005) Cognitive Psychology, 6th Ed. Worth, New York. CogLab Student Manual (2003), Stamford, CT: Wadsworth. (ISBN: 0-534-57410-6). **NB**, do NOT purchase a "used" CogLab manual from the bookstore as the registration number will not be valid. Either buy a new book or register online and then download the manual.

Course Requirements

4 exams: 70% of grade

CogLab experiments: 25% of grade

Class Participation: 5% of grade

Objective. The course objective is to examine how humans acquire, process, and retain information, and communicate and reason about that information.

Daily Reading assignments are listed in the "Lecture Schedule" below. You will also be required to participate in demonstration experiments from the on-line CogLab library. Movies will be assigned as well and these will be discussed in class. Your course grade will be based on exam scores and the on-line CogLab experiments.

Exams. (70% of grade) Exams will be given on class dates noted in the lecture schedule. Exams will cover the lectures, assigned movies, and class discussion since the preceding exam. Exams will combine multiple choice with essay questions. The fourth exam will be administered during the final exam period and will be comprehensive. *Individual make-up exams will not be given.* Missing an exam will require prior approval as well as an authenticated excuse (only health reasons and family emergency will be accepted). If you are excused from an exam, you will be required to write a paper on an assigned topic to substitute for the exam grade. If an exam is cancelled due to official GMU cancellation, the exam will be given on the next class meeting day. Students who have taken all three term exams may **elect** to take the final exam. If that choice is made, the final exam grade will replace the lowest term exam grade.

Experiments. (25% of grade) You are required to complete the assigned on-line demonstration experiments from the CogLab library. You must complete the assignment **prior to the class for which it is assigned** and arrive prepared to contribute to class discussion. I will access the CogLab account and assign credit for each experiment completed **on time**. This portion of your grade will reflect the number of experiments you complete.

Participation. (5% of grade) Good scholarship depends on class participation. You will be expected to attend class and be prepared to participate verbally by asking questions in a way that shows knowledge of the material. Students will be responsible for *material covered in lecture whether or not it is in the text.*

Grading. Grades will be assigned as follows: 90-100 A; 80-89 B; 70-79 C; 60-69 D; below 60 F.

Honor Policy. The University Honor Code will be upheld in this course.

Disability. 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.

Last day to add - September 12th; Last day to drop - September 29th

Lecture Schedule (approximation)

FUNDAMENTALS OF COGNITION

August	29.....	Organizational Meeting	
August	31.....	History	Ch. 1; CogLab:Brain Asymmetry
September	5	Brain and Mind	CogLab: Stroop Effect
September	7	Cognitive Neuroscience Methods	CogLab: Sternberg Search
September	12.....	Perception	Ch. 2; CogLab:Apparent Motion
September	14.....	Visual recognition	CogLab: Attentional Blink
September	19.....	Exam 1	

ATTENTION AND IMAGERY

September	21.....	Auditory attention	Ch. 3; CogLab: Spatial Cuing
September	26.....	Visual attention, Executive	CogLab: Operation Span
September	28.....	Mental Imagery	Ch. 4; CogLab:Imagery

MENTAL REPRESENTATION

October	3.....	Episodic Memory	Ch. 5; CogLab:Partial Report
October	5.....	Semantic Networks	CogLab: Remember-Know
October	10.....	Columbus Day Recess	
October	12.....	Encoding and Storage	Ch. 6; CogLab: Brown-Peterson
October	17.....	Exam 2	
October	19.....	Working memory	Ch. 7; CogLab: Memory Span
October	24.....	Long Term Memory	CogLab: Phonological Similarity
October	26.....	Memory Distortions	CogLab: False Memory
October	31.....	Interference & Retrieval	CogLab: Serial Position
November	2.....	Disorders of Memory	

PROBLEM SOLVING, EXPERTISE, & LANGUAGE

November	7.....	Problem Solving	Ch. 8
November	9.....	Expertise & Procedural Learning	Ch. 9; CogLab: Implicit learning

November	14.....	Decision Making	Ch. 10; CogLab: Wason Task
November	16.....	Reasoning	Coglab: Typical Reasoning
November	21.....	Language	Ch 11; CogLab: Lexical Decision
November	23.....	Thanksgiving Recess	
November	28.....	Language & Thought	CogLab: Word Superiority
November	30.....	Discourse Comprehension	Ch. 12
Dec	5.....	Individual Differences	Ch. 13
Dec	7.....	Exam 3	
Dec	12.....	Comprehensive Final Exam (10:30-1:15pm)	