

Psychology 317 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2006

Dr. P.M. Greenwood
2060 David King Hall

Email: pgreenw1@gmu.edu
Phone: 703 993-4268
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:00
Meeting times: Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-1:15, Fine Arts Building B108

Texts: Kellogg, R.T. (2003) *Cognitive Psychology*, Second Ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. *CogLab Student Manual* (2003), Stamford, CT: Wadsworth. (ISBN: 0-534-57410-6). Additional readings will be handed out in class.

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. 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 readings, lectures 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. Missing an exam will require prior approval as well as an authenticated excuse (only health reasons and family emergency will be accepted). No make-up exams will be given. 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. *Individual make-up exams will not be given.*

Experiments. (25% of grade) You are required to complete the assigned 12 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 answering 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 - February 7; Last day to drop - February 24.

Lecture Schedule

SCOPE AND METHODS

January	24.....	Organizational Meeting	
January	26.....	Introduction and History	Ch. 1
January	31.....	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch. 2, CogLab: Brain Asymmetry
February	2.....	Measuring Brain and Mind	reading, CogLab: Sternberg Search

FUNDAMENTALS OF COGNITION

February	7.....	Perception	Ch. 3, CogLab: Stroop Effect
February	9.....	Attention	Ch. 4; CogLab: Attentional Blink
February	14.....	Attention/Discussion	
February	16.....	Exam 1	

LEARNING, KNOWING, REMEMBERING

February	21.....	Memory	Ch 5
February	23.....	Sensory Memory	reading, CogLab: Partial Report
February	28.....	Working Memory	reading, CogLab:Memory Span
March	02.....	Episodic Memory	Ch 6
March	07.....	Memory Distortions	Ch 7, reading, CogLab:False Memory
March	09.....	Semantic Memory	Ch 8
March	12-19.....	Spring Break	
March	21.....	Learning concepts and skills	Ch 9, CogLab: Implicit Learning
March	23.....	Exam 2	

KNOWING AND USING LANGUAGE

March	28.....	Language	Ch 10, CogLab: Word Superiority
March	30.....	Language Production	Ch 11
April	04.....	Language Comprehension	Ch 12, reading , CogLab: Lexical
Decision			

April 06.....Discourse Comprehension

THINKING

April	11.....	Problem Solving	Ch 13, Coglab: Typical Reasoning
April	13.....	Reasoning & Decision Making	Ch 14, CogLab: Wason Task
April	18.....	Intelligence	Ch 15
April	20.....	Gender Differences	Ch 15
April	25.....	Cognition & Genetics	reading
April	27.....	Discussion/Review	
May	2.....	Exam 3	
May	16.....	Comprehensive Final Exam (10:30-1:15pm)	