Psychology 317  COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2006
Dr. P.M. Greenwood
2060 David King Hall

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


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
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)