

Psychology 317(004)–Cognitive Psychology  
Spring 2006–Jennifer M. Levitas, Ph.D.

**Class Meetings:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:45 pm

**Class Location:** Fine Arts Building, room B108

**E-mail:** [gofossil@comcast.net](mailto:gofossil@comcast.net) (preferred method of communication)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:45-1:15, Thompson Hall room 131

**Phone:** 571.435.7193

**Text:** Cognition, Sixth Edition

**Author:** Margaret W. Matlin

**Course Objectives:**

This course examines cognitive processes, or “higher mental processes.” Topics to be covered include perception, memory, language, and thinking. In this course, you will gain an appreciation of the basic information in cognitive psychology, from both theoretical and research-based perspectives. You will also gain an understanding of the research methods used in cognitive psychology, and become competent in critically evaluating the research in this area. You will be encouraged to apply your knowledge to your own cognitive processes in order to gain a deeper understanding of the material.

**Course Requirements:**

-completion of four (4) out of five (5) exams

-ten sets of chapter review questions

**Exams**

Exams will take one class period to complete, and are multiple choice. The first four exams are not cumulative, but the final is cumulative. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. Thus, if you are happy with your grades on the first four exams, you may choose to skip the final. If you miss one exam for any reason, that is the exam that will be dropped, thus there will be no makeups. No exceptions! Each exam is worth 20% of your grade.

**Chapter Review Questions**

At the end of each chapter, there are ten chapter review questions. You need to answer all of the questions and turn them in at the appropriate time as indicated on the following page. You must type each question in the text **in bold** and then answer each question in regular type. ***Make sure you answer each part of each question***, as each question has multiple parts. You will receive a grade of 0, 1, 1.5 or 2 for each report. Handwritten reports will not be accepted. There are thirteen chapters in the text, but you need only turn in ten sets of questions to receive full credit. These questions are quite involved, and will take considerable time and effort, so be prepared to spend a significant amount of time on them. All together, these questions will be the equivalent of one exam grade, thus I highly recommend you make every effort to complete them on time and submit

high-quality work. The assignments need to be submitted in hard copy form at the beginning of the class in which they are due. The Review Questions are worth 20% of your grade.

### Grade Calculation

In order to determine your final grade in the course, refer to the following formula:

Exam #1 x .20 = ??

Exam #2 x .20 = ??

Exam #3 x .20 = ??

Exam #4 x .20 = ??

Review Questions (up to 20) = ??

Add up all the ??'s, and that will be your final course grade.

### Grading Scale

93-100% = A    87-89% = B+    77-79% = C+  
90-92% = A-    83-86% = B    70-76% = C  
80-82% = B-    60-69% = D

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.

### Important Dates

The last day to add a class is February 7.

The last day to drop a class is February 24.

### Cheating/Plagiarism Policy

Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the instructor in arriving at an honest grade assessment. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that involves presenting as one's own the ideas or work of another. Violation of this policy may result in a grade of "F" in the course. Any violations of the Honor Code will be promptly reported to the Honor Committee.

Note: What follows is a tentative schedule. The schedule given is a best estimate. It is the responsibility of each student to keep her/himself informed as to any changes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
T 1/24	Introduction	1
R 1/26	<i>Chapter Review (CR) Questions due for Chapter 1</i>	
T 1/31	Perceptual Processes: Pattern Perception	2
R 2/2	<i>CR Questions due for Chapter 2</i>	

T 2/7 R 2/9	Perceptual Processes: Attention <i>CR Questions due for Chapter 3</i>	3
T 2/14 R 2/16	<b>Exam #1</b> (Chapters 1-3) Working Memory	4
T 2/21 R 2/23	Long-Term Memory <i>CR Questions due for Chapter 4</i> <i>CR Questions due for Chapter 5</i>	5
T 2/28 R 3/2	Strategies and Metacognition <i>CR Questions due for Chapter 6</i>	6
T 3/7 R 3/9	<b>Exam #2</b> (Chapters 4-6) Imagery	7
T 3/14 R 3/16	No class this week—Spring Break!	
T 3/21 R 3/23	<i>CR Questions due for Chapter 7</i> General Knowledge	8
T 3/28 R 3/30	<i>CR Questions due for Chapter 8</i> Language: Introduction and Language Comprehension	9
T 4/2 R 4/6	<i>CR Questions due for Chapter 9</i> <b>Exam #3</b> (Chapters 7-9)	
T 4/11 R 4/13	Language: Production and Bilingualism <i>CR Questions due for Chapter 10</i> Problem Solving and Creativity	10 11
T 4/18 R 4/20	<i>CR Questions due for Chapter 11</i> Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making	12
T 4/25 R 4/27	<i>CR Questions due for Chapter 12</i> <b>Exam #4</b> (Chapters 10-12)	
T 5/2 R 5/4	Cognitive Development Throughout the Lifespan <i>CR Questions due for Chapter 13</i>	13
R 5/11	<b>Final Exam</b> (cumulative), 1:30 pm	

Reminder: Always check your GMU email account in case of class cancellation, especially in mid-March!