PSYC 317-005: Cognitive Psychology
Spring 2006, Wednesday 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.
Enterprise Hall 175

Instructor: Jason Wong
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Class Website: http://archlab.gmu.edu/~jwong1/psyc317.html
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., or by appointment

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 - Feb. 7th Last day to drop - Feb. 24th Final Exam – May 10th

Course Information:

1. This class will be a combination of lecture and class discussion. Class discussion and participation in class activities will count for 5% 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, fill-in-the-blank, and/or 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 20% of your grade will be based on a paper summarizing and critiquing a cognitive psychology article. The paper should be five pages in length and is due on **April 19**. For each week the paper is late, you will be penalized one letter grade on the paper. More information about the article summary and critique 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. Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

A+ (100-97), **A** (96-93), **A-** (92-90) **B+** (89-87), **B** (86-83), **B-** (82-80)
C+ (79-77), **C** (76-73), **C-** (72-70) **D** (69-60) **F** (below 59)
Please note that the actual grading standard will be based on class performance on each exam.

6. I will be presenting lectures via PowerPoint, using my own laptop and a projector. Slides for each class will be available for downloading from the class website. If anyone needs slides in a format other than PowerPoint, please let me know.

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
Jan 25	Chapter 1	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
Feb 1	Chapter 2	Cognition and the Brain; Methods of Cognitive Psychology
Feb 8	Chapter 3	Perception
Feb 15	Chapter 4	Attention (with a focus on visual attention)
Feb 22	**----------**	**EXAM 1**
Mar 1	Chapter 5	Sensory Memory, Short-Term Memory, and Working Memory
Mar 8	Chapter 6	Long-Term Memory
Mar 15	----------	*Spring Break – No Class*
Mar 22	Chapter 7	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors
Mar 29	Chapter 8	Knowledge
Apr 5	**----------**	**EXAM 2**
Apr 12	Chapter 9	Visual Imagery
Apr 19	Chapter 10	Language -- **PAPER DUE**
Apr 26	Chapter 11	Problem Solving
May 3	Chapter 12	Reasoning and Decision Making
May 10	**----------**	**EXAM 3**