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**Course description:** Cognitive Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes. Some of the main topics in this field are *pattern recognition, attention, memory, knowledge, problem-solving, and decision-making*. Another major theme is the *relation between mind, brain, and behavior*. This course is an advanced laboratory course designed to extend your knowledge about the major phenomena, research methods, and theories in Cognitive Psychology. In addition to lectures, this course includes a number of application opportunities including formal debate designed to encourage critical analysis and a lab component designed to give you direct experience with a number of cognitive tasks and phenomena.

The main learning objectives for this course are to help students: (1) Understand and apply experimental methods in the study of human cognition; (2) Identify and critique the primary research literature on cognition; (3) Develop, conduct, statistically analyze, and interpret cognitive research; and (4) Cogently communicate ideas and data related to the scientific understanding of human cognition both orally and in writing.

**Textbook and required readings:** The textbook is ***Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)*** by K. Galotti (2013). You will also be required to read papers from the primary literature which are available on my website. Expect questions from both the text and outside readings on the exam. I *strongly* encourage you to read all assigned material *prior* to the class in which it is discussed; doing so will both make classes more interesting and will increase your ability to understand and retain the material. The lab will involve completing psychological experiments using *CogLab 2.0* which can be found at <http://coglab.wadsworth.com>. To use this site, you will need to purchase ***CogLab Online Manual Version 2.0, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (with Access Code)*** by Francis & Neath (2007) as each manual contains a unique code for each student enrolled in the course. IMPORTANT NOTE: Do *not* buy a used CogLab manual; each code can only be used once.

**Lectures, Debates, and Labs:** This course will include lectures, debates, and experimental labs. Lectures will be held on Mondays and will focus on discussion of the major concepts, methods, and theories of Cognitive Psychology. Debates will take place on Wednesdays and will focus on the critical analysis and application of the information from our lectures, as well as the development of clear oral communication skills. Labs will take place on Fridays and will give you practical experience with many of the cognitive tasks discussed in the lectures, as well as the psychological research process (e.g., understanding experimental designs, managing data, graphing data, statistical analysis, data interpretation, scientific writing, etc.).

**Grading:** Final grades will be based on a total of 600 points: 300 from 3 exams (100 points each), 100 from 10 lab assignments (10 points each), 100 from a final research paper, 50 from 5 debates (10 points each), and 50 from a poster presentation. Grades will be assigned in the following way: A = 93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 73-76%, C- = 70-72%, etc.

**Exams:** There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points and together represent 50% of your final grade. Exams will not be cumulative. They will contain a variety of testing formats (e.g., matching, diagrams, etc.), but will primarily consist of multiple-choice questions and essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only when a scheduled exam is missed due to an unavoidable (e.g., medical) emergency. If this happens, I will request documentation of the emergency.

**Weekly Lab Assignments:** *CogLab* experiments will be conducted during most Friday lab periods so lab attendance is *critical*. After completing each experiment, you will be required to answer a series of questions about the experiment and/or to work with the data from the experiment. Your completed lab assignments are to be turned into the TA by **Monday at 5pm**; however, because lab assignments can be challenging, you are strongly encouraged to complete them during the lab period where you can receive guidance from me, your

TA, and your classmates. Each lab assignment will be worth a maximum of 10 points. Lab assignments turned in 1 to 2 days late will be awarded 50% of the earned points. Lab assignments will not be accepted beyond 2 late days.

**Class Debates:** For each of the main topics introduced during lecture, the class will have an opportunity to further discuss and critically evaluate controversial issues surrounding that topic by engaging in team debate. You will form teams of three individuals of your choosing. Each Wednesday, we will have two debates with one team taking the pro side of an issue and another team taking the con side of an issue for each debate. Teams will be expected to clearly present factual/empirical (not opinion-based!) arguments for their side of the issue. After both teams have had a chance to present and defend their arguments, the audience (the teams not involved in the debate) will have the opportunity for questions, comments, and constructive criticism. Following each debate, I will provide the audience with a 'debate ballot' to assess which team they feel delivered the stronger argument. Teams will take part in 5 debates across the semester. Each debate will be worth 10 points with a total debate grade out of 50 points (or 8.3% of your final grade). There will be no "correct" answer for any of the debate topics, but students will instead be evaluated on evidence of preparation and quality of delivery. Additional guidelines for debate will be provided in class and on the course website. Debates will take place on the scheduled Wednesday and there will not be an opportunity for make-up debates, so please note your relevant dates and ensure your attendance on those days.

**Research Project:** A fundamental component of scientific psychology is designing, conducting, and reporting experimental research. To give you first-hand experience in this process, each student will be required to conduct an experiment and present the results of that experiment in two ways -- as a research poster and as a written report. The poster presentation will be worth 50 points and will be part of a mini-conference that we will stage on **Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**. The research paper will be a more in-depth report of your experiment written in APA format. This paper will be worth 100 points and will be due at the end of the semester **by 5pm on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Papers are to be submitted electronically to [danielsk@uncw.edu](mailto:danielsk@uncw.edu). You will also have the opportunity to turn in a 1-2 page proposal outlining the experiment you intend to conduct **during lab on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** so that I can give you feedback for improving your question and design. Please note that **no experiment can be conducted without my prior approval**. Note that Friday lab assignments are designed to help you prepare for this final project.

**Attendance.** Lecture attendance will not contribute directly to your grade. However, exams will draw from both the readings and class lectures. Since I often lecture on topics that are not covered in the readings, it is strongly recommended that you attend all classes. As well, there will be a number of pop-quizzes each of which will be worth 10 extra-credit points. Quizzes will be unannounced and no make-up quizzes will be given. On days for which a pop-quiz is given, the quizzes will be handed out at the beginning of the class and you will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz. Students coming to class late will not be given extra time. Similarly, many of the lab assignments are challenging and many students will require guidance from me and the TA. Such one-on-one assistance will only be provided during class time. Attendance for debates is mandatory.

**Participation.** Participation in this course, either by asking questions or contributing to class discussions, is not required but is strongly recommended and can "influence" your grade. Please participate!

**Academic Honesty:** The academic honesty policy of UNCW will be strictly followed in this course. Please consult the Undergraduate Catalogue or Student Handbook for specifics about this policy. In brief, neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated in this course.

**Campus Violence and Harassment:** UNCW practices a zero-tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273, Campus Police at 962-3184, or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit <http://uncw.edu/wsrc/crisis.html>

**Learning Center.** The Learning Center provides writing services with free one-on-one consultations for all students for any academic writing purpose. Consultations are led by faculty-recommended and trained peer tutors or professional tutors that help students identify areas to improve and develop specific revision plans.

Students taking PSY410 might find this service useful for helping to produce a strong final paper or to simply improve your writing skills before you graduate. You can get more information at <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/writing/index.html> or 962-7857.

**Final Note:** My main goal is to help you succeed in PSY410. In addition to teaching you the concepts and theories relevant to Cognitive Psychology, I want you to leave this course with the skills necessary to think critically about information you encounter in your daily lives and to communicate your ideas effectively. These skills will be an asset to you in whatever career path you choose to pursue. Most of you will find this course challenging – psychological research *is* challenging. However, I hope you will also find the experience interesting and rewarding. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions that will help you get the most out of this course. I'm looking forward to this semester – I hope you are as well!

### **Critical Dates (dates are subject to change with notice)**

Jan. 13.	PSY410-001 begins.
Jan. 20	MLK Day (no class).
Jan. 21.	Last day to drop without a grade.
Feb. 19.	EXAM 1.
Feb. 28	Last day to drop without penalty/withdraw ("W").
Mar. 3	Spring Break (no class).
Mar. 5	Spring Break (no class).
Mar. 7	Spring Break (no class).
Mar. 14	Research Proposals due by lab.
Mar. 26	EXAM 2.
Apr. 2	Data Collection Day.
Apr. 4	Data Collection Day.
Apr. 18	Easter Break (no class).
Apr. 28	Poster Presentations.
Apr. 30	Last day of classes.
May 2.	Research reports due by 5pm.
May 5	EXAM 3 @ 8:00am.

### **Required Outside Readings (reading list is subject to change with notice)**

Engle, R. W. (2002). Working memory capacity as executive attention. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 11, 19-23.

Toth, J.P. (2000). Nonconscious processes in memory. In E. Tulving & F.I.M. Craik (Eds.), *Oxford handbook of memory* (pp. 245-261). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Class Schedule (all dates & topics subject to change)**

Monday (Lectures)		Wednesday (Debates)		Friday (Labs)	
Week 1	Jan 13	Orientation to Course	15	Orientation to Debate	17
Week 2	20	MLK Day (no class)	22	Debate 1: A vs. B; C vs. D	24
Week 3	27	History of Cognition	29	SNOW DAY (missed debate)	31
Week 4	Feb 3	Neural Basis of Cognition	5	Debate 2: E vs. F; G vs. H (rescheduled from 1/29)	7
Week 5	10	Pattern Recognition	12	SNOW DAY (missed debate)	14
Week 6	17	Attention	19	Exam 1	21
Week 7	24	Short-Term Memory	26	Debate 5: A vs. H; G vs. B	28
Week 8	Mar 3	Spring Break (no class)	5	Spring Break (no class)	7
Week 9	10	Long-Term Memory	12	Debate 6: C vs. F; E vs. D	14
Week 10	17	Implicit & False Memory	19	Debate 7: B vs. C; D vs. A	21
Week 11	24	Semantic Memory	26	Exam 2	28
Week 12	31	Concepts & Categories	Apr 2	Data Collection Day	4
Week 13	7	Imagery	9	Debate 8: F vs. G; H vs. E	11
Week 14	14	Judgment & Decision-Making	16	Debate 9: A vs. E; B vs. F	18
Week 15	21	Problem-Solving	23	Debate 10: D vs. H; G vs. C	25
Week 16	28	Poster Presentations	30	Wrap Up & Evaluation	
Week 17	May 5	Exam 3 @ 8am			

Students given take-home assignment covering material missed in Debates 3 & 4. Due February 26th.

Additional lab assignment completed here to replace one from 1/31.