

Psychology: 3348 Cognitive Psychology
Spring Semester 2015

Professor: Dr. Schwartz
Office: Psychology 110
Office hours: T 9-10 or by appointment- give 24 hour notice of need
Office phone: 747-7365
Email: aischwartz@utep.edu (best way to reach me!)

Required Text: Cognitive Psychology: Applying the Science of the Mind (3rd Edition)

About the Course:

In this course you will develop a sophisticated, detailed understanding of human cognition. That is, you will become well informed about how humans learn and remember. All of human experience involves learning and memory in various forms, so **what you learn in this course will be relatable to your future career goals no matter what they are.**

The first topic we will cover is the history of cognitive science. Science is never completely objective. Rather, theories and perspectives are shaped by the surrounding socio-cultural context. Psychology is no exception and in fact has a history full of debates and controversies.

After orienting ourselves within the social, political and historical factors that shaped cognitive psychology today we will review in detail the various essential stages of information processing. The starting point is attention, then encoding, followed by storage and finally, retrieval. Here you will learn about the specific mechanisms that allow us as humans to think, learn and remember.

Once we have mastered the essential basics and principles of information processing we will be equipped to study in-depth specialized topics. In particular we will learn about language comprehension and individual differences in cognition.

Course Objectives

Here is a list of what you will be able to do upon successful completion of this course

- 1) You will be able to describe the philosophical movements that shape how cognitive psychologists study memory and information processing.
- 2) You will understand and be able to apply major principles of human cognition
You will know what the cognitive revolution was, and how it affects psychology today
- 3) You will be able to describe the most current models of memory
- 4) You will be able to analyze human learning and memory from multiple theoretical perspectives

Student Responsibilities

- 1) Classroom decorum

- a. On-time arrival
 - b. No cell phone use
 - c. Wireless feature turned off on laptops
- 2) Active participation in class from every single student
 - 3) Keep up with announcements and assignments in class
 - 4) When absent, acquire missed information from peers, website

How to succeed in this class

- 1) Attend and participate in every single class
- 2) Keep up with the readings
- 3) Study and review every single day

Cognitive burn is brain healthy! (Dr. Schwartz)

Grading

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Quizzes and assignments	25%

Exams: Exams will be multiple-choice. They will cover material from lectures and from the textbook, with an emphasis on the lectures.

Missed Exams: No exams will be made up. Instead students can take the optional, cumulative final. The only exception will be for students participating in UTEP sanctioned activities that conflict with an exam date. Those students must notify me of the conflict via email at least one week prior to scheduled exam.

Reading assignments. For each new chapter students will read and study on their own a portion of each chapter that is covered in class. This will typically be the introductory part of each chapter, which is easily comprehended without lecture. To ensure that the reading is completed, quizzes on that content will be delivered, either weekly or bi-weekly. Lecture will focus on more advanced topics within a chapter. Readings need to be completed by each Monday of the following week.

Quizzes: Throughout the semester there will be quizzes. These quizzes are included so that you will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate what you know. Quizzes will be taken during regular class periods. The format of the questions can be either multiple choice or short response. Quizzes will be based on content recently covered in lecture and/or from readings due that week.

Missed Quizzes: Quizzes cannot be made up. If you complete all quizzes, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. This way, if you miss one quiz your grade will not be affected. This policy applies to all students without exception.

Attendance: Regular attendance is a requirement for passing this course. Exams and quizzes will contain content not covered in the text. Furthermore, several concepts covered are hard to understand by just reading and lecture will be an essential guide.

Absences: Students need not notify professor of absences from regular classes since there will be natural consequences of missing too many classes, attendance will not be monitored via role call. Students are responsible for obtaining missed information.

Note about laptop use: Students can use laptops for note taking purposes only. Thus, only applications such as MS Word and/or PowerPoint may be opened. No web applications may be active during class time.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Dates	Chapters	Reading Assignment
1	6/8- 6/10	1.Cognitive Psychology: A brief history and introduction	Pgs. 1-11; 20-21 Quiz 6/9
	6/11- 6/12	3. Mechanisms of Attention	Pgs. 83-87 Quiz 6/11
Exam 1 6/15			
2	6/16- 6/17	4. Immediate Memory	Pgs. 130-137 Quiz 6/16
	6/18-6/19	6. Basic Processes in Long-Term Memory	Pgs. 215-219 Quiz 6/18
Exam 2 6/22			
	6/23- 6/25	8. Malleability in Memory	Pgs 305-308 Quiz 6/23
	6/26- 6/29	7. Autobiographical Memory	Pgs. 260-268 Quiz 6/26
	6/30- 7/2	11 Judgments and Decisions	Pgs446-450 Quiz 6/30
Exam3			
Optional Cumulative 7/3			