

PSY 536 - Advanced Cognitive Psychology Summer 2008

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Class Time: Tues 5:30-9:20pm
Class Location: UCTR - Room 116
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Overview:

This course will provide each student with a general understanding of cognitive psychology by combining reading assignments in the textbook, reaction papers, and research article discussions. This course should provide students with a basic understanding of the relationship between empirical evidence and the theoretical explanations of cognitive processes. In addition, students should gain an appreciation of the practical applications of theories and research in cognitive psychology. Lectures will consist of background information concerning the topic of interest, discussion of research in the area, and applications of this topic area.

Grading:

Mastery of the lecture and reading material will be evaluated with four in-class examinations. Each exam will make up 15% of your grade. Journal articles will also be assigned throughout the term and will be discussed during class in a seminar-type format. Each student will be required to lead a 15 minute discussion on two of the assigned articles throughout the term. Additionally, for each class period, you will be required to hand in a 1-2 page typed reaction paper for the assigned journal articles. Leading discussion will make up 15% of your grade and your participation when others lead discussion will make up 10% of your grade. Finally, your reaction paper grade will make up the remaining 15% of your grade for this course. It is up to you to illustrate that you have read the assigned material and have considered its implications.

The purpose of the reaction papers is to encourage you to reflect on the assigned journal articles. In order to most effectively do this, please read your ENTIRE reading assignment PRIOR to completing the reaction paper. Feel free to discuss specific examples of information from your reading assignment if that information is especially pertinent to the content of your reaction paper. Reaction papers must be handed in the day of the reading assignment and you must be present in class to hand in your journal entry. Below are some sample questions that you could address in your reaction paper:

1. What are your views concerning the topic/issue?
2. What did you learn from the reading assignments?
3. Are there any ways that you can use this information in your own life?
4. Can you think of examples of this information or these topics in your own life?
5. Is there information in the reading assignment that might be helpful for someone else? Explain.

Grades in this class will be based on the following scale:

Class Average:	Above 89.4	89.4 - 79.5	79.4 - 69.5	69.4 - 59.5	Below 59.5
Grade:	A	B	C	D	F

Reading Assignments:

- Galotti, K. M. (2008). Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory (4th edition). Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN #0-495-09963-5
- Additional readings – each of the readings will be e-mailed to you.

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Textbook Assignment</u>	<u>Other Readings</u>
6/3	Introduction to the Course	None	
	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 1	Watson (1913)
6/10	Cognitive Neuroscience	Chapter 2	Penfield (1959)
	Perceptual Processes	Chapter 3	Simons & Chabris (1999)
6/17	Attention and Consciousness	Chapter 4	Moore (1982)
			Greenwald et al. (1991)
			Robles et al. (1987)
	EXAM #1		
6/24	Memory: Forming and Using Memory Traces	Chapter 5	Godden & Baddeley (1975)
	Memory: Retrieving Memories	Chapter 6	Miles & Hardman (1998)
			Swihart et al. (1999)
7/1	Memory Applications: Eyewitness Memory	pgs 211-214	Loftus & Palmer (1975)
	Memory Applications: Repressed/False Memories	pgs 214-220	Stocks (1998)
			Lindsay et al. (2004)
			Karon & Widener (1997)
7/8	EXAM #2		
	Cognitive Development	Chapter 14	Rovee-Collier (1999)
			Perris et al. (1990)
			Jacoby & Rhodes (2006)
7/15	Language	Chapter 10	Fabbro (2001)
			Au et al. (2002)
			Jensvold & Gardner (2000)
7/22	EXAM #3		
	Visual Imagery	Chapter 9	Roland & Friberg (1985)
	General Knowledge	Chapter 7 & 8	Shafto & Coley (2003)
			Quinn (2004)
7/29	Problem Solving	Chapter 11	Galotti (2007)
	Reasoning	Chapter 12	Robinson & Matheson (2007)
	Decision Making	Chapter 13	Lee et al. (2007)
8/5	Intelligence	<i>None</i>	Brooks-Gunn et al. (1996)
			Lynn (2002)
	Human Factors	<i>None</i>	Strayer & Drews (2007)
	EXAM #4		

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to university disciplinary action (Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, as printed in Student Guidelines) **AND WILL RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE FAILING GRADE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT AND/OR THE COURSE.** The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work that has been submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

- **Cheating** includes:
 - Copying from another student's exam, laboratory report, assignment, computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
 - Using materials not authorized by the instructor during an exam or other assignment.
 - Collaborating with another student during an exam or in preparing academic work without authorization from the instructor.
 - Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
 - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take an exam or complete any assignment.
 - Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by another individual or firm.
- **Plagiarism** refers to the use of another individual's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit. If you would like to use someone else's ideas, summarize their work **USING YOUR OWN WORDS and then CITE THEIR WORK** using the accepted American Psychological Association's Guidelines.
- **Collusion** means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. However, no course points are directly linked to class attendance. However, you must be in attendance to hand in assignments, participate in in-class assignments, or take exams. In-class assignments are *only* provided during class, and thus *cannot* be made up at a later time. Although this class will not carry a "failure due to absences" policy, failure to attend class will decrease your grade for each assignment missed. Further, information covered in class will be included in exams. Historically, poor attendance has been strongly related to poor grades in my courses. Thus, each student is strongly encouraged to attend class regularly. If you must be absent, be sure to arrange for a peer to obtain handouts and/or notes for you. They will not be available from me except on the date initially provided.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who are disruptive to the class may be dismissed from the classroom for their inappropriate behavior and will not be allowed to hand in any assignments due for the remainder of that class. Additionally, students may be withdrawn from the course for repeated disruptive behavior.

Religious Holy Days:

Students have the responsibility of notifying the professor of each scheduled class day that the student will be absent due to a religious holy day. *This must be done not later than the 15th class day.* Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one week of returning to class. However, any in-class assignments cannot be made up, but will not count against their other assignment average since the one lowest assignment grade will be dropped.

Notice to Persons with Disabilities:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individuals otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program activity. Students with a disability that may affect their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is done so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodation. Furthermore, accommodations will be made **only** to those people who have documented the disability with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office in the Student Counseling Center. The number there is 936-294-1720.