

PSY 337 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Credit hours: 3

Fall 2007

University Center

Wednesday 6-9

Instructor: T. C. Sim, Ph.D.

Office: AB4, Rm. 333

Tel: 294-1507

Office hours: Refer to grading policy.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Cognitive Psychology* (7th ed.) by Robert L. Solso

Topics:	Chapters
Introduction	
Neuroscience and Cognitive Psychology	2
Detection of sensory signals	3
Pattern recognition	4
	FIRST EXAM
Attention	5
Memory models	6
Memory: Structures and processes	7
	SECOND EXAM
Representation of Knowledge	8
Mnemonics and memory	9
Mental imagery	10
Language: words and reading	11
:Structure and abstractions	12
	THIRD EXAM
Real and Artificial Intelligence	14
	15
	16
	FINAL EXAM

Please take note that this is a proposed schedule. Any changes in the schedule (especially EXAMS) will be announced in class. If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to get information on any updated changes from classmates.

Class objectives

This class is designed to teach you the basic principles of cognitive psychology. At the end of the semester you should have gained a better understanding of the various cognitive processes that you engage in everyday. As you read this course outline, you are engaged in a cognitive process of deciphering the printed stimuli into meaningful words and sentences.

In a nutshell, cognitive psychology addresses how we (continuously) add on to our knowledge of the world, how we gain knowledge of the diverse dimensions in our everyday life. How do we store knowledge and information, where do we store them, when do we store them (do we have control?), how do we retrieve them, when do we retrieve them, what are the mediational processes (are there any?) involved in storage and retrieval, how do we remember things and events from years ago and yet not recall some parts of this sentence that we have just read a few seconds ago, how is our memory organized, at what point is comprehension and understanding achieved, at what point is confusion evident, and what point are we overloaded with information? For some readers, the preceding sentence is too lengthy, and may require two or three readings to be understandable.

In fact, this course is an introduction to the many areas of cognition which are major fields of study within psychology. Researchers investigating the different phenomena and topics that we will cover in this class continue to add new discoveries and knowledge to the field of cognitive psychology in particular, and to psychology and the understanding of the human brain in general.

Mental processes are not observable, but they are still covert behavior that sometimes result in overt responses. Observable, physical behaviors are not always spontaneous, involuntary responses, but are sometimes preceded by antecedent events which may be of internal or external origin. We shall better understand such phenomena by the end of this semester.