

PSYCHOLOGY 3103-002, Cognition, Fall semester 2000

Time: TR 0930-1045

Location: HSS 3.04.14

Instructor: Dr. Ray Lopez

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COURSE OBJECTIVE

In this class, we will be examining the different paradigms that address the study of cognition. These theories have given us insights about the nature of how people process information. You will discover that each school of thought has its strengths and weaknesses, that not one answers all our questions about cognition, but that all of them are necessary to comprehend cognition. The search for an understanding of cognition, the construct that defines our most unique ability as a species, continues today. Hopefully, you will learn these distinct perspectives and gain a healthy respect for the field.

PREREQUISITES

Students enrolled in this course **MUST** have **ALREADY TAKEN** Experimental Psychology (PSY 3403) and one of the following: Theories of Learning (PSY 2543), Perception (PSY 2553), Psychology of Thought (PSY 2573), or Psychology of Language (PSY 2583). It is important that students have completed these classes prior to starting this course. Information in this course derives from psychological theories and experimental methodology. No basic review of any of this pre-required information will be given.

REQUIRED TEXT

Solso, Robert L. (1998). *Cognitive Psychology*. Allyn & Bacon: Needham Heights, MA.

COURSE WEB SITE

An interactive bulletin-board style conferencing area has been set up for this course. You can interact with your classmates, check the syllabus, check your grades, plan study groups, attend virtual office hours, etc. by using this tool. To access it, point your web browser to

<http://rheingold.caucus.com/psy3103-login>

A user ID and password will be provided during the first day of class. If you lose your password or user ID, email Dr. Lopez at rl@well.com. Use of this web-based tool is NOT mandatory.

GRADING

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

EXAMS: There will be three (3) exams in the course. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and five to ten short answer questions, covering materials discussed in both the lectures and the textbook. Highest score for each exam will be 100. The exams will cover topics discussed after the previous exam.

The lowest of the three exam scores will be dropped in the course grade calculation.

It is strongly advised NOT to miss any of the exams. Make-up exams will NOT be given. There are no exceptions to this rule. No extra credit assignment to make up for missed exams will be given. Dates for the exams are already provided so make note of these dates.

If a student should miss an exam for any reason (except for official University-sanctioned travel that should be verified in writing and given to the professor well in advance), he/she will receive a zero on that exam and the remaining exams will count as the best two. If the student misses a second exam, the resulting score of zero will be added in as part of the best two exam scores. There are no exceptions to this rule.

PAPER: There will be one required paper for this course. The paper will be an experimental proposal paper. All papers submitted must be in APA standard format, and part of the paper grade will be based on how well it conforms to the APA standard. For the research proposal paper, you will select a research article discussed in your textbook, or one based on more current cognitive science literature from a refereed psychological journal. All papers selected must be approved by the instructor, and he will have a recommended list for you to choose from if you wish. You are to write a proposal based on your chosen article. Each paper must address some aspect of the article-study. For example, you may have a better or different way of testing one or more of the hypotheses examined in the article, or you may have identified certain confounds that can be controlled for in your proposed study, or you may have a follow-up study in mind, or you believe the researchers neglected testing

an important part of some theory. Direct replications of existing studies are not allowed and will be considered plagiarism.

Papers will be graded on score from 0 to 100. Each paper must be typed, APA format, and at least 5 pages of body text. Besides the other parts of an APA paper, a results section must be included, in which the proposed manner of analyzing the data is presented.

The paper is due in class no later than 1045 (end of class) on 26 October. **Any paper turned in after 1045 on 26 October will be considered a Late Paper.** Late papers will have points deducted from the grade according to the following schedule:

- Late paper turned in before 5:00 PM (Thu) 26 October: minus 5 pts.
- Late paper turned in before 5:00 PM (Fri) 27 October: minus 10 pts.
- Late paper turned in before 5:00 PM (Mon) 30 October: minus 25 pts.

Late papers may be turned into the division office, where they will be time-stamped. No papers will be accepted after 5 PM Monday 30 October.

FINAL EXAM: There will also be a final exam for the course, which will consist of 75 to 100 multiple-choice items and approximately 15 short answer questions. Approximately 40% of the questions on the final exam will come from material covered in Exam 3, about 28% of the questions on the final exam will come from material covered in Exam 2, about 17% of the questions on the final exam will come from material covered in Exam 1, and about 15% of the questions on the final exam will come from material we covered AFTER Exam 3.

The final exam score will NOT be dropped from the course grade calculation. A make-up exam for the final will NOT be given. No exceptions.

COMPUTATION OF YOUR FINAL GRADE: Each of the 3 regular semester exams, the final exam and the paper will be given a score between 0 and 100. The lowest grade of the 3 regular semester exams will be dropped. Your final numerical grade will also be on a scale of 0 to 100, and will be computed by adding together:

- 25% of your best regular semester exam grade
- 25% of your second best regular semester exam grade
- 35% of your final exam grade
- 15% of your paper grade.

Example: Let's say Bud Wiser made a 65, 87, and 78 on his three regular semester exams, made an 85 on his final exam, and made a 90 on his paper. I'd drop Bud's lowest regular semester exam score (65) then compute his grade as follows:

$$25\% \text{ of } 87 = 21.75$$

$$25\% \text{ of } 78 = 19.5$$

$$35\% \text{ of } 85 = 29.75$$

$$15\% \text{ of } 90 = 13.5$$

Thus, Bud's final numerical grade would be

$$21.75 + 19.5 + 29.75 + 13.5 = 84.5$$

Your final letter grade will be based on your final numerical grade and will be assigned as follows:

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
100 - 89.5	A
89.49 - 79.5	B
79.49 - 69.5	C
69.49 - 59.5	D
Less than 59.5	F

In the example above, Bud Wiser's letter grade would be a "B".

PLAGIARISM

Cheating on the exams and plagiarizing on the papers is very, very bad, and will cause the instructor to get medieval on your grade's ass. Don't do it. If you THINK you are plagiarizing, then you probably are.

Plagiarism includes collaboration with others and turning in similar work, having others "help" you with your work, copying work that is not yours (buying it on the Internet or from other places does NOT make it yours), no proper referencing of ideas, facts, or statements, or lying about any of the above. Penalties include failing the course, having the University give you the smack-down, and expulsion from the University.

Other possible penalties include upsetting your mom, high blood pressure, hair loss, sexual dysfunction, boils and lesions, halitosis, cramps, hairy palms, bloating, auditory

hallucinations, dropsy, intestinal parasites, mad cow disease, distemper, eternal damnation of your soul to the Prince of Darkness, visits from the "chupacabra", and explosive diarrhea.

If you are uncertain about whether or not you are plagiarizing or cheating, please see your instructor. Ignorance of the law is no excuse; if you tell me after you've been caught that you "didn't know" that your actions were plagiarism, I'll say, "Well, welcome to hell. You do now."

ATTENDANCE & OTHER REMINDERS

1. Attendance will not be formally taken each class session. However, it is important to attend class since some of the information in the textbook may be difficult to grasp and class lectures will help clarify these topics. Additional information not found in the textbook may also be given during class. Besides, you just might learn something.
2. Students who frequently miss class, who only come to class on test days, and who make it a habit to walk out of class, and/or who chat during class will be noted. By the same token, students who consistently and actively come to class will also be noted. If you prefer to be somewhere else, then do not come to class so as not to disturb fellow classmates or the professor.
3. Students who continually disrupt the class by engaging in horseplay or disruptive lecture-irrelevant conversations will be given two verbal warnings to stop. After the second warning, if the students continue with the disruptive behavior, they will be asked to leave the classroom. A petition will be submitted to the Dean's office to drop the disruptive students from the class roster after they have been asked to leave the room. Those dropped from the roster will receive a grade of ``F".
4. If an early departure from class is needed because of an appointment, the student should inform the professor before class starts and must sit close to the door. Please leave quietly.
5. If any student is late coming to class, s/he should sit in an area of the classroom that will lead to the least amount of class disruption.
6. If a student misses a lecture, arrange to copy notes from a fellow classmate, not from the professor.
7. No visitors in class.

8. ALL electronic devices should be turned off or made inaudible (e.g., beepers in vibrate-mode).
9. Children or childish persons are not allowed in class.
10. Please do not WHINE! The expectations for this course are simple and straightforward. Please do not try and convince me to give you another chance, try for some extra credit, tell me that I'm preventing you from entering medical/graduate/law/vet/trucking school, give me a sob story, etc. We all have problems. I very much appreciate honesty, personal responsibility, common sense, common courtesy, and hard work. We both have jobs to do: Mine is to do my best to teach you about cognition and report your performance on my tests accurately. Yours is to come to class and do your best on all tests and assignments. I think we'd both rather be doing something else, so let's try and make this as pleasant as possible on all sides.

COURSE CALENDAR

August	29	Course intro and overview
	31	Intro to cognitive psychology (pp. 1-20)
September	5	Conceptual science & cognitive psych; neurocognition (pp. 21-39)
	7	Nervous system; neurophysiology (pp. 40-60)
	12	Hemispheric lateralization; sensation & perception (pp. 61-80)
	14	Signal detection theory; pattern recognition (pp. 81-100)
	19	Gestalt theory; prototype matching (pp. 101-120)
	21	Form perception; topics in pattern recognition (pp. 121-128)
	(26)	EXAM 1
October	28	Attention (pp. 129-154)
	3	Consciousness (pp. 155-180)
	5	Theories of memory (pp. 180-211)
	10	Structures & processes of memory (pp. 212-246)
	12	Knowledge representation (pp. 247-265)
	17	Neurocognition of representation; connectionism (pp. 266-274)
	(19)	EXAM 2
	24	Mnemonics and experts (pp. 275-297)
	26	Paper due; Mental imagery (pp. 298-326)
	31	Language: structure, abstractions (pp. 327-338)
November	2	Psycholinguistics; neurology of language (pp. 339-359)

	7	Language: words & reading (pp. 360-385)
	9	Cognitive development (pp. 386-399)
	14	Cognitive development (pp. 400-418)
	(16)	EXAM 3
	21	
		Concepts, logic, decision making (pp. 419-452)
	23	Thanksgiving holiday!
	28	Problem solving, creativity, human intelligence (pp. 453-491)
	30	Artificial intelligence (pp. 492-515)
December	5	Applied cognition (pp. 516-533)
	(11)	FINAL EXAM

Other dates to know:

1 September: Last day to add this course

27 October: Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"