

PSYC 3030: Cognition
Course Syllabus (Summer 2018, Term A)

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Office: 310 Audubon Hall	Office Hours: T/Th, 12:00 – 1:00p ¹
Classroom Location: 104 Audubon Hall	Class Time: MTWThF 11:00a – 12:00p

Course Description

This course is intended to give you an overview of cognitive psychology, which is primarily concerned with human information processing (i.e., complex mental activities that you do every day, but for which you don't usually give yourself credit!). In this class, we will examine the theory and data behind a variety of cognitive phenomena, including (but not limited to) attention, memory, pattern recognition, categorization, language, and thought. Throughout the course, we will examine evidence from both classic and modern experiments to give you experience interpreting, understanding, and applying scientific findings to your everyday experiences.

The aim of this course is to provide you with the knowledge necessary to develop your own investigations into cognitive science, and to build upon your critical thinking skills. As such, you will be required to write three short article review papers based on the topics related to Cognition (see “Examinations and Grading Policy” for more detail about this assignment). The goal is for you to get involved with different aspects of cognitive psychology, and to understand it in greater depth than you would from textbooks or lectures alone.

Required Textbook and Required Readings

-Get excited: There is **no required textbook** for this course.

Although this saves you some money, this means attendance will be critical to your grade, as nearly all test questions will come from lecture material, and in-class discussion, activities, or demonstrations.

-But... there *are* required readings that will be posted throughout the semester on the course Moodle. Some will be optional, but **others will be required readings that will appear in exams**. However, required articles will not always be discussed in class.

It is your responsibility to keep up with required readings, and to ask questions in a timely manner if you have any difficulty with them. That said, I am happy to help you wade through unfamiliar scientific writing... just ask!

¹ Because this course is over the summer (and hardly anyone comes for office hours even during the normal semester), I only reserve one hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am, of course, very willing to meet with you outside of those hours. Please just send me an email, and I am happy to schedule something with you.

Course Website

All of you should already be enrolled in the Moodle site for this course. If you are not, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. This site will be used throughout the semester to provide you with extra copies of in-class material (e.g., assignments, the syllabus, etc.), and some items will be made available exclusively on Moodle (e.g., required readings).

I will periodically post grades and other announcements via the “Course Announcements” section of Moodle, so make sure to check it throughout the semester. These announcements might alert you to time-sensitive extra credit opportunities, changes to syllabus policies or scheduling, or anything that is critical that the entire class know. Moodle is your friend, so please check it regularly!

Examinations and Grading Policy

Your grade in this class will be based on **four exams**, with the first worth 15% of your grade and the remaining three worth 20% (75% total). Please note that you are responsible for **all** assigned material, including assigned readings that we may not discuss during class. The exams will contain a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and longer (but not too long!) essay questions. I will not give study guides, but I will tell you what sections of the course will appear on which exams and provide you with learning objectives to guide you toward relevant material.

- *Please note:* If you cannot attend class the day of a scheduled exam, **you must contact me within 24 hours before or after the exam** to schedule a make-up exam. For school-sanctioned events (with a note) and verifiable documented excuses, you will have **three business days** from the original exam date to take the exam. Failure to contact me, or to schedule or show up for your make-up exam within three days of the original date will result in a grade of zero, unless university-approved documentation can be provided.
 - *Why three days?* Sorry gang, but the summer semester is short. We will cover a lot of material in a little time, so **make-ups must be within three days**.
- *But...* If you find yourself in the unlucky position of not having a documented excuse, you can still contact me **within 24 hours before or after the exam** to schedule a make-up. Note, however, that you will not receive the standard exam; undocumented make-up exams will consist of **ONLY** essay questions and will be quite a bit more challenging than the original exam. Failure to take the exam within three business days of the originally-scheduled date will result in a grade of zero.
 - *Note:* You will only get one undocumented make-up exam, so do not rely on this. This policy is intended to allow life to happen without totally killing your grade... but please do try to make it to every exam.

In addition to exams, your grade will be based on **in-class participation** (10% of your grade) and **three short research papers** (each worth 5%, for a total of 15% of your grade). There will also be extra-credit opportunities in the form of out-of-class research participation (see “Extra Credit?” below). Grades will be calculated on a ten-percentage point scale, with the top 3% of each letter grade receiving a plus (+) score and the bottom 3% of each letter grade receiving a minus (–) score.

Given available extra-credit opportunities, **I will not round-up grades** at the end of the semester. Please do not ask me to do it, even if you are within .1% of a higher grade.

97% - 100% = A+	87% - 89.9% = B+	77% - 79.9% = C+	67% - 69.9% = D+	
93% - 96.9% = A	83% - 86.9% = B	73% - 76.9% = C	63% - 66.9% = D	Below 60% = F
90% - 92.9% = A-	80% - 82.9% = B-	70% - 72.9% = C-	60% - 62.9% = D-	

Breaking it down: Grades, grades, and more grades

In-class Participation (10% of your grade)

- Throughout **random** days of the semester, I will ask you to participate in some in-class activities. These activities will range from simply answering a discussion question to participating in some (really cool) demonstrations regarding the different studies we will talk about. We will complete at least 15 different participation activities throughout the semester, however, only 10 of these activities will count towards your participation grade. The remaining 5+ activities will count towards extra credit and/or making-up any participation points you may have missed. Nonetheless, if you consistently miss class, your grade will surely suffer by losing these **easy points!**
 - **Make-up Policy:** Coming to class and participating will significantly improve your grade on all exams. Therefore, **you will not be allowed to make-up any participation activity without valid documentation.** Participation activities will have to be made up **within two business days of the day the activity took place.** Failure to make up participation activities within two business days will result in a grade of zero. In-class participation make-ups will be done during my office hours unless otherwise agreed.

Article Review Research Papers (15% of your grade)

- You will have to write **three short** (about 2 - 5 pages **maximum, double-spaced**) article reviews over the course of the summer semester. Research paper materials will be made available to you from the first week of class, and it is your responsibility to take advantage of these materials and to get clarification before the assignment is due.
- Details about this assignment will be contained in an additional handout, available on Moodle (see “Article Review Requirements” in the “Handouts” folder). I will outline this assignment during class, and am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the articles you chose. Please note that I will not proofread your paper, but I have no problem answering *specific questions* about something you have read or written.
 - **Make-up Policy:** Because the only assignment outside of class in this course is your article reviews, and you will submit these papers electronically, no make-ups will be allowed. Should something happen the day the assignment is due that prevents you from turning it in, your best option is to get in touch with me as soon

as possible, and I will decide on a case-by-case basis provided you have documentation of your absence.

- **Late Penalties:** Say you just forget to turn in your paper on time, which is 5:00 PM on any afternoon in the Course Schedule that indicates an article review is due. As described in the handout for the assignment, your paper should be submitted *via Moodle*, which can be done at any point on *or prior to* the due date. Late assignments will be subject to a 10% deduction for every day that they are late. This means if you turn in an assignment 2 days late, your maximum score will be 80%.
- **More information:** There is a handout available on Moodle (and to be distributed during class) that will give you the precise breakdown of this assignment. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Extra Credit? (up to 5% of your grade)

- You will be able to **earn up to 5% of your final grade** from extra credit opportunities by participating in in-class activities or in research experiments sponsored by the LSU Department of Psychology.²
- As you will learn in this course, participation in research experiments is crucial for the development of our understanding of psychology. Therefore, for every 1 research credit you earn, you will receive 0.5% extra credit towards your final grade. This means you need 10 research credits to obtain the total 5% extra credit. However, given that most of the studies we will discuss in class use an experimental design that involves some sort of interaction between a person and a researcher, I will only allow participation in face-to-face laboratory experiments. **No online studies will be accepted for extra credit.**
- Please note that research experiments will be available throughout the semester, at different times, dates, and locations. You can sign-up for research experiments by visiting <https://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com>.
- You can find a folder labeled “Research Extra Credit” on Moodle with all the documentation and information you will need to participate in psychology research experiments.
- **IMPORTANT:** *Make sure to only sign up for experiments labeled “PSYC-” and to assign your credits to this course (PSYC 3030)!*

Please do not ask for any other forms of extra credit. Because there are already extra credit opportunities available to the whole class, I will not make exceptions for any individual students. I know that most of you would never ask for extra points at the end of the semester (at least, I hope not!), and it is unfair to other students if I give some of you extra points, but not others. As a general rule, I am happy to help you figure out more effective study methods, wade through course material, or answer your questions... but I am *not* willing to give you extra assignments for the sole purpose of boosting your grade.

² Please note that a **maximum of 5 extra-credit points will counted towards your final grade**, regardless if this was achieved via in-class participation points, research participation, or a combination of both.

LSU Policy Statements

In-class Behavior

In this class we will be discussing many interesting and diverse topics, and I encourage everyone to voice their opinion and participate in class discussion. However, please keep in mind that we all come from different backgrounds and we might have a different opinion on any subject. Any negative or offensive comments will not be tolerated. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Behavior Policy. All students are expected to follow the Code of Student Conduct. Section 10.2 covers behavioral misconduct: http://students.lsu.edu/saa/code_10_2. **Disruptive behavior interferes with educational processes and robs other students of the chance to learn.** If I perceive that your behavior is disrupting class, I will inform you. Your best response to a warning: to stop immediately the behavior that led to your warning.

Academic Dishonesty (and plagiarism... fun)

All students are responsible for observing the highest standards of academic and personal integrity. You are bound by the LSU code of Student Conduct, which can be accessed at [http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/\\$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument](http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument). The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and **ignorance is NOT an acceptable excuse**. I will refer all suspected cases of alleged academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students. Academic dishonesty includes any act that violates the academic integrity of the university.

Because you are required to do some writing for this course (on the exams, and on the research paper you will write), I will be actively monitoring for plagiarism. The LSU Code of Student Conduct defines plagiarism as, “the unacknowledged inclusion, in work submitted for credit, of someone else’s words, ideas, or data.” To view the full integrity policy, please visit: <http://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/codeofconduct.php>. You are responsible for understanding this policy.

Please try to avoid plagiarism as much as possible. To guard against such acts, all papers turned in will be run through a plagiarism checker. If your paper is “flagged” by the system, this does not mean you will automatically fail, but I will evaluate whether the system has flagged you in error (for example, you have one or two small errors or phrases in common with published work), or whether it appears intentional (for example, you have copied an entire paragraph from a research article). Acts of intentional plagiarism will be forwarded to the Dean of Students, and students who commit any forms of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism, but also cheating on the exams!) will be recommended for disciplinary action. Please don’t make me recommend you – you will learn better, and we will both be much happier if you avoid all forms of academic dishonesty.

Students with Disabilities

If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with Disability Services (DS). DS is located in 115 Johnston Hall. If you need more information, contact the Office of Disability Services at 225/ 578-5919, or

disability@lsu.edu. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper DS forms and meet with me at the beginning of the semester.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any special needs for class or for testing. I will be happy to provide the necessary accommodations, but it is your responsibility to let me know in advance of when your accommodations are needed. You can come and see me privately before or after class (or during my office hours).

Diversity Statement

“LSU strives to create an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socio-economic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas.”

<http://uiswcmweb.prod.lsu.edu/edco/edco/DiversityStatement/item25970.html>

For more information regarding Diversity at LSU, please visit the website for the Office of Diversity, or contact them in 135 Thomas Boyd Hall, by phone: 225-578-5736, or email: diversity@lsu.edu.

Date	Day	<u>Important Event</u>
6/4	M	Classes begin... Hopefully you know this one already.
6/6	W	Final date for dropping without receiving a “W,” 4:30 PM deadline.
6/7	Th	Final date for adding courses, 4:30 PM deadline.
7/4	W	Independence Day Holiday (no class!).
7/10	Tu	Final date for dropping courses, 4:30 PM deadline.
7/23	M	Classes end, 10:00 PM; final date for extra credit research participation.
7/26	Th	Our final, at 4:00 PM.

The following is a tentative schedule for the Summer 2018 Term A semester. I reserve the right to make changes to the following schedule as needed.

TENTATIVE Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Topic</u>
6/4	M	Section 1	Course overview/Syllabus/Brief History
6/5	T	Section 1	Overview of experimental design
6/6	W	Section 1	Human Information Processing
6/7	Th	Section 1	Sensory Memory
6/8	F	Section 1	Attention and Perception
6/11	M	Section 1	Probably attention? Mostly perception
6/12	T	Section 1	Attention and Perception Part III
6/13	W	Section 1	Flex Day/Wrap up
6/14	Th	Exam 1	Covers Section 1 material and readings
6/15	F	Section 2	STM + WM
6/18	M	Section 2	STM + WM
6/19	T	Section 2	More STM
6/20	W	Section 2	STM + WM + LTM [*REVIEW 1 DUE BY 6PM]
6/21	Th	Section 2	LTM: Encoding and Retrieval
6/22	F	Section 2	LTM: Love it
6/23	M	Section 2	Neat stuff in LTM
6/26	T	Section 2	Flex Day/Wrap up
6/27	W	Exam 2	Covers Section 2 material and readings
6/28	Th	Section 3	Mental Imagery
6/29	F	Section 3	Mental Imagery Part II
7/2	M	Section 3	Imagery and Concepts
7/3	T	Section 3	Concepts
7/4	W		<i>Independence Day (No class! Don't shoot any illegal fireworks.)</i>
7/5	Th	Section 3	Concepts, Categories, and Knowledge
7/6	F	Section 3	NO CLASS [*REVIEW 2 DUE BY 6PM]
7/9	M	Section 3	Representing Knowledge and Categories
7/10	T	Section 3	More knowledge and categories
7/11	W	Exam 3	Covers Section 3 material and readings
7/12	Th	Section 4	Language
7/13	F	Section 4	Language again
7/16	M	Section 4	Problem Solving
7/17	T	Section 4	Reasoning
7/18	W	Section 4	Decision-Making
7/19	Th	Section 4	Judgment and Decision-Making
7/20	F	Section 4	JDM [*REVIEW 3 DUE BY 6PM]
7/23	M	Section 4	Flex Day/Wrap up
7/26	Thursday		<i>Final Exam @ 4:00 PM (Audubon Hall 104)</i>