

**Psychology 365 L01**
**Cognitive Psychology**
**Winter 2015**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wed 1300-1400		

**Course Description and Goals**

From the Calendar: A survey of research and theory in cognitive psychology. Research in pattern recognition, attention, memory, language, thinking, and other cognitive abilities is explored, with discussion of associated brain mechanisms.

**Prerequisites**

Psyc 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

**Required Text**

Smilek, D., Sinnett, S., & Kingstone, A. (2013). *Cognition* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. [available in the University Bookstore]

**Evaluation**
**1. Tests/exams (80%)**

There will be 3 exams in the course. The first two exams are *not* cumulative. The final exam *is* cumulative. Exams will include multiple-choice and short answer questions, and will cover both lecture and textbook material. Access to textbooks and/or class notes will not be permitted during exams (including the final exam).

Test	Text content	% of Final Grade	Date
Test # 1	Ch 1-5	20	Thursday February 12, 2015
Test # 2	Ch 6-9	20	Thursday March 19, 2015
Test # 3	Ch 1-13	40	Final examination period (April 18-29, 2015)

**2. Research Translation Assignment (20%)**

The purpose of this assignment is to give students an opportunity to read and synthesize current research findings that relate to research described in the textbook. Using PsycInfo, Web of Science, Google Scholar, or another means, find an empirical journal article (i.e., one that reports one or more original experiments) that updates or challenges a claim made in an empirical journal article referenced in the assigned text chapter. The article you choose cannot be referenced in the text. A list assigning students to textbook chapters will be posted by UCID on D2L. You must be the first to post the article

reference in APA format on D2L within the appropriate text chapter forum to lay claim to your article. No two students can use the same article (note: doing so will result in an F grade on the paper). In part 1 of your written assignment (3-4 double spaced pages, 8%), describe the first study, and then describe the second study and explain how it updates or challenges our understanding of the relevant cognitive process. In Part 2 of your written assignment, (1 page, 5%), write a press release, translating the second study into language that the general public could understand and find interesting (see example posted on D2L). In Part 3 of your written assignment, (3-4 double spaced pages, 7%), critique the second study and then propose an original third study and explain how it could further our understanding of the relevant cognitive process while addressing your critique. Assignments should be submitted electronically via D2L on the due date. Late (or early) assignments will be accepted only via D2L. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Late assignments will be accepted only if received within 1 week of the due date, and will be penalized a full letter grade (e.g., a "B+" paper will receive a "C+" grade).

### **Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy**

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades in 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

### **Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades**

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

*A+ grade: Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

*A, A- Range: Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

*B Range: Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

*C Range: Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

*D range: Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

**Grading Scale**

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

Date	Topic	Textbook Readings	Due
T Jan 13	Course Overview/Introduction	Chapter 1	
R Jan 15	Introduction/Cognitive Neuroscience	Chapters 1 and 2	
T Jan 20	Cognitive Neuroscience	Chapter 2	
R Jan 22	Perception	Chapter 3	
<i>F Jan 23</i>	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>		
<i>M Jan 26</i>	<i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>		
T Jan 27	Perception	Chapter 3	
R Jan 29	Attention	Chapter 4	Chapter 2 assignments
<i>F Jan 30</i>	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>		
T Feb 3	Attention	Chapter 4	Chapter 3 assignments
R Feb 5	Memory Traces and Schemas	Chapter 5	
T Feb 10	Memory Traces and Schemas	Chapter 5	Chapter 4 assignments
<b>R Feb 12</b>	<b>Test 1</b>	<b>Chapters 1-5</b>	
<b>Feb 15-22</b>	<b>Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).</b>		
<i>M Feb 16</i>	<i>Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>		
T Feb 24	Memory Systems	Chapter 6	
R Feb 26	Memory Systems	Chapter 6	Chapter 5 assignments
T Mar 3	Imagery	Chapter 7	
R Mar 5	Imagery	Chapter 7	Chapter 6 assignments
T Mar 10	Concepts	Chapter 8	

R Mar 12	Concepts/Language	Chapters 8 and 9	Chapter 7 assignments
T Mar 17	Language	Chapter 9	
<b>R Mar 19</b>	<b>Test 2</b>	<b>Chapters 6-9</b>	
T Mar 24	Problem Solving	Chapter 10	Chapter 8 assignments
R Mar 26	Problem Solving/Reasoning	Chapters 10 and 11	Chapter 9 assignments
T Mar 31	Reasoning, Judgment, and Choice	Chapter 11	
R Apr 2	Intelligence and Creativity	Chapter 12	Chapter 10 assignments
T Apr 7	Intelligence and Creativity	Chapter 12	Chapter 11 assignments
R Apr 9	Personal Cognition	Chapter 13	Chapter 12 assignments
T Apr 14	Final Exam Review	Chapters 1-13	Chapter 13 assignments
<i>W Apr 15</i>	<i>Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>		
<b>Apr 18-29</b>	<b>Winter Term Final Examinations.</b>		

### Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

### **Travel During Exams**

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 15, 2015**.

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>  
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 403-220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.