Cognitive Psychology
PSY 360, Section 001
McKibben 258
Monday and Wednesday 1:00-1:15 pm
Spring 2018

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Office Hours: M W F 10:00-11:00  T Th 2:00-4:00
Office Phone: 936-468-1478

Required Text:

Course Description:
An introduction to current theory and research in the psychology of thought with an emphasis on the human information processing system. Topics include perceptual processes, attention, memory, language, categorization, imagery, problem-solving, and decision making.
Prerequisites: General Psychology PSY 133 and sophomore standing.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

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<th>PLO</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
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<td>The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts,</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical</td>
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<td>trends in psychology.</td>
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<td>The student will understand and apply basic research methods in</td>
<td>Intermediate/</td>
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<td>psychology, including research design, data analysis, and</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>interpretation.</td>
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<td>The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking,</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to</td>
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<td>solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.</td>
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<td>The student will understand and apply psychological principles to</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>personal, social, and organizational issues.</td>
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<td>The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<td>ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings</td>
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<td>of psychology as a science.</td>
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Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will understand the daily workings of their various cognitive systems.
2. Students will apply the understanding to improve their efficiency in life as a citizen and as a student.
3. Students should be able to show comprehension from textbook reading assignments through assignments and test performance.
4. Students should be able to express knowledge and critical thinking skills through written assignments and through answering test questions.
Your final grade for the course will come from the following. All of the materials can be found on the D2L website.

**Research Reports (24%)**: Three links to research talks are posted in D2L that relate to three parts of the course. Two of those talks are from the popular TED series. Your research reports will start from those talks. After viewing the talk, you will write a short summary and application of the information in the talk. Then, you will find a scientific journal article that relates to the talk and you will provide a summary and analysis of that article. The total number of words to be written is about 500, or one page in Microsoft Word, single-spaced at 12-point font. Each of these three reports will be worth 8% of your final grade. Please see the D2L page for details.

*A complete example of one of the research reports will appear on D2L the weekend ending Monday January 22, 2018.*

**Quizzes (16%)**: I will post weekly quizzes based on the material covered for 12 of our weeks together, as the schedule indicates. Each quiz will be posted late Wednesday of that given week and will be due at 11:59 PM.

There will be six questions covering the most germane parts of the material we will have covered. A student that attends class, reads, and takes reasonably careful notes should do well on these quizzes.

**Exams (60%)**: The exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. Questions for the test will be drawn from the readings, the lectures, and the activities that we complete. The final exam is not cumulative. Each exam will be worth 15% of your final grade.

**Final Grade**: The final grade in the course will be assessed using the following percentage grading scale:

- A = 89.5% and above,
- B = 79.5-89.49%
- C = 69.5-79.49%
- D= 59.5-69.49%
- F= less than 59.5%
Guidelines for the Course

1. Due dates and late work.
The research reports are due at 11:59 pm on the due date through the D2L dropbox or they will be counted as late. Each weekday late will lead to a 10 point deduction. No late assignments will be accepted after 5 business days after the due date.

2. Makeup tests.
Tests take me many, many hours to construct. It is possible that a student who misses a test will be given the same test that his/her peers took. This is possible in the context of a University-recognized excused absence or a compelling emergency.

If a student simply misses a test for no particular compelling emergency or University-recognized excuse, I will write another test that is solely essay in nature and understood to be much more difficult. I have no choice. I cannot engage in many hours’ work to create a unique and equivalent test for just one or two students. Another principal reason is fairness. I cannot reward forgetting of an exam with extra time to prepare for that very same exam. At the same time, I want to reward those who stretched to take the exam on time.

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
4. Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. All forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with seriously and immediately, which will range from a zero on the assignment to referral to the Dean of the CLAA for academic dishonesty. Please respect SFA, yourself, and me enough not to participate in academic dishonesty.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

5. Students with Disabilities

These disabilities could consist of physical, psychiatric, and/or learning impairments. To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments

Note: Dates are tentative and I reserve the right to change them. The exception is test dates. I will not alter test dates.