Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 5308, Fall 2021
Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., MCKB 269

Professor: Dr. James Schaeffer
Email: schaeffejd@sfasu.edu

Office Hours

I'll be holding in-person and virtual office hours via Zoom this semester. They are as follows:

- Monday: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (virtual via zoom)
- Monday: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (in person)
- Tuesday: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (in person)
- Wednesday: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (in person)

Zoom Meeting ID: 956 4365 4726
Meeting Password: 869457
Zoom Link: https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/95643654726?pwd=bkhOYjF0M1lKTGtzeDBTRUJxVVVnUT09

Course Description

This course will cover topics in cognitive psychology with a focus on information processing in the brain. Topics will include: cognitive neuroscience, sensation & perception, consciousness, attention, sleep, learning, memory, language, intelligence, development, social cognition, abnormal cognition, comparative cognition, and dementia.

Readings/Materials

All reading material for this course will be posted on D2L and it is all freely available. You do not need to purchase a textbook for this course.

D2L
All course material will be posted here on D2L. This includes all graded material (quizzes, exam, assignments, discussions). Grades will also be posted here as they occur throughout the course.

**Course Requirements**

The course will include 13 short quizzes, one presentation, and two exams (midterm and final). Extra credit may be offered throughout the semester. However, if extra credit is offered, the opportunity will be made available to all students (i.e., there will be no special cases).

**Quizzes**

You will have a quiz at the end of every week in this course. These quizzes will be cumulative, to a degree. There will be 14 quizzes total (1 per week), and your lowest graded quiz will be dropped (13 will count toward your final grade). These will be worth 5 points each (for 65 points total).

**Presentation**

Each student will give a one-hour presentation over a research article related to a class topic. Students will be randomly assigned to these presentations one week before they are due. This will be worth 65 points.

**Exams**

There will be two exams in this course: a midterm and a final exam. These will be a mix of essay and multiple-choice questions. Each will be worth 65 points.

**Discussions**

There will be a discussion associated with each content module (1 per week, for 13 weeks). These discussions will occur asynchronously. They are worth 1 point each.

**Make-Up/Late Work Policy**

If there are circumstances beyond your control that prevent you from completing course material, make-up opportunities may be offered at the discretion of the professor. Make-up requests must be made no later than 24 hours passed the due date.

**Grading Policy**

Grades will be determined by your performance on quizzes, assignments, discussion posts, and a final exam. Your final grade will be calculated as a percentage of points earned out of 273. Grades will be calculated as follows:
Assessment | Points
---|---
Quizzes (13 total, at 5 points each) | 65
Presentation | 65
Midterm Exam | 65
Final Exam | 65
Discussions | 13
Total | 273

A >89.4%
B 79.5% - 89.4%
C 69.5% - 79.4%
D 59.5% - 69.4%
F <59.5%

Your Grade (%) = Points Earned / 273

Grades will be posted on D2L as they occur throughout the course.

Credit Hour Justification (3 Credits)

This course contains the content equivalent of meeting for 150 minutes once a week for 16 weeks, with an additional 2.5-hour final examination period. Students typically have significant weekly reading assignments, writing assignments, are expected to take regular tests, and a final examination. These activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to do the following things at a basic level:

- Understand the basic workings of the brain
- Understand the basics of cognitive neuroscience research
- Distinguish various cognitive processes and how they interact
- Appreciate unconscious influences on cognition
- Apply cognitive strategies to improve your own learning and to teach others
- Understand the impact of cognition on mental health
Course Policies

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology</td>
<td>Advanced/Mastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes</td>
<td>Advanced/Mastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science</td>
<td>Advanced/Mastery</td>
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Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

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.

Students with Disabilities

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, and 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/.

Course Calendar by Weekly Topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of:</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>Q, D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>Sensation &amp; Perception</td>
<td>Q, D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Consciousness</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Attention</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Intelligence</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Abnormal Cognition</td>
<td>Q, D, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>(Thanksgiving break)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Comparative Cognition</td>
<td>Q, D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Q = quiz, D = discussion, SP = student presentation*

*The professor reserves the right to change this schedule to best meet the needs of the class.*