Recitation for Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 317 Sec 302
Spring 2024

Recitation Time: Tues 10:30 – 11:45 am
Room: Angel Cabrera Global Center 1302A
Instructor: Hendeke Tafesse
Room 2072H
David King Hall
email: htafess@gmu.edu tel: 571-639-9358

Office Hours: Tues 12.00pm – 1.00pm or by appointment (please email me for appointments).

Objectives: Cognitive Psychology is the scientific study of how the mind encodes, stores, and uses information. This course aims to provide students with a foundation in the theories, methods, findings, and applications of Cognitive Psychology. Each week of this course will focus on a specific cognitive function, and will address important theories and experimental results that help define the understanding of cognition.

Required Readings and Materials:
Chun. M.M., Most, S.B. (2022). *Cognition*. **Oxford University Press, New York, NY, USA.**

Readings for this semester will consist of chapters from Chun and Most (2022), with additional material posted on Blackboard. **You are expected to read all material each week ahead of class**.

Paper notebook and pen/pencil. A college ruled notebook and pen or pencil available at the bookstore is **highly recommended** for notes during the lecture.

Class Format: This class will consist of a weekly lecture and a recitation/tutorial. To prepare for class each week, you should ensure that you have read the required chapter. For the lecture, you should bring your notebook and pen/pencil for notetaking. If you prefer taking notes on a laptop you can, but I *strongly recommend* taking lecture notes with paper and pen/pencil. You should bring your notes, and if you have a laptop or tablet you can bring this to your recitation.

Learning Assessment: Learning assessment will consist of:

Three exams (with an optional fourth):	60%
Class research project and report:	25%
Three video assignments	15%

a) <u>Three Exams (60%)</u> Each exam is worth 30% of the final grade. All exams will be closed book and held in-class. Students have the **option** of dropping their lowest exam and taking a fourth exam during finals week. This make up exam will be of the same length as the in-semester exams, but will cover material selected from all of the semester. Students must notify their recitation instructor via email before the end of the semester if they wish to take this option. While you are permitted to take the fourth exam if you missed one of the earlier exams, the option to drop an exam grade is not available if you did not complete all three of the in-semester exams. Make up exams are typically not given. Students who miss two or more exams under extenuating circumstances should contact Prof Thompson to discuss alternative writing projects.

b) <u>Class research project and report (25%).</u> Students will participate in a cognitive psychology research project, discuss the research rationale, design, and results in class, and each write a research report.

c) <u>Three video assignments (15%).</u> Students will upload three 5 mins videos in response to prompts provided in class. In each video, students are expected to discuss a prompted cognitive psychology question, and provide examples from the everyday world. Assignment prompts and due dates will be provided in class. If you do not have access to technology to record videos (either via laptop/tablet or phone) please contact your recitation instructor or Prof Thompson **at the start of the semester**.

Late Work: Written and video assignments are due on the due date. A penalty of 10% of the assignment grade will be applied for the 48 hours after the due date. Assignments submitted more than 48 hours after the due date will not be accepted.

Workload: You should plan to spend 6-8 hours per week outside of class reading, writing, and otherwise working on things for this class. Some weeks it might be less, and others (such as before an exam) it might be more. If you are doing more than 6-8 hours of work and feel like you are still falling behind please speak to me or to Prof. Thompson.

Technology: Materials will be distributed via email, in class, and via Blackboard. Students will need to be able to read and refer to class materials during recitations.

Important Dates: Last day to add: Jan 23. Last day to drop Jan 30. Spring Break Mar 4-10

Grade Scale:

A+	97.00-100.00%	A	93.00-96.99%	A-	90.00-92.99%
B+	87.00-89.99%	B	83.00-86.99%	B-	80.00-82.99%
C+	77.00-79.99%	C	73.00-76.99%	C-	70.00-72.99%
D+	67.00-69.99%	D	63.00-66.99%	D-	60.00-62.99%
F	below 60%				

Attendance: Attendance at each week's lecture and recitation is expected and necessary to keep up with the course. Recitation attendance will be taken each week to help with your accountability. Attendance isn't part of your grade, however, so by default is optional. If you are going to miss class, you do not need to let me or Prof. Thompson know. In addition, neither I nor Prof. Thompson can provide you with materials if you do not come to a lecture or recitation.

Honor Code: All exams must follow the guidelines of the GMU Honor Code. George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information. Students may consult with other students and use books, notes, and other sources in preparing for exams. However, when taking exams, no books, notes, or student interaction will be allowed. Cheating and plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated.

At certain times in this class, you will be expected to use ChatGPT and similar generative AI applications. However incredible these technologies are, they have limitations and you should not rely on them to complete other work in this (or any other) class. If you feel tempted to use the output of such applications as your own work, please consult with me or Prof. Thompson. There are times they can be helpful, and times when they can lead to an honor code violation. However, a conversation about generative AI is always encouraged.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center C(DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Diversity and Inclusion: The Psychology Department values and respects individuals of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, and socioeconomic classes. We recognize that each of us holds several intersecting identities that both bring a richness of lived experience and convey vastly differing levels of privilege. We fully acknowledge that our society – and in many cases, our discipline – have contributed to these differing levels of privilege.

Civility (Non-Academic Misconduct): Please remember that we are members of a larger learning community where excellence is achieved through civility. Our actions affect everyone in our community. Please be respectful of others regardless of gender, age, race, culture, religion, or sexual orientation. It is expected that all students will follow general "netiquette" in online work. Individuals who engage in disruptive online behaviors such as posting disrespectful or hostile comments, posting inappropriate comments, or shouting (using all capitals) may have their online access privileges revoked and/or may receive an F for the class.

Sexual Harassment, Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence: George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living, and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted, or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct details Mason's process, the resources, and the options available to students.

Any faculty or staff member is required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator, but please know that this will result only in someone reaching out to you directly to let you know about available services and to determine if you wish to take any action. You can also contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380) to speak to someone confidentially, as those offices are not required to report disclosures. You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

Student Privacy Statement: At times, students may disclose personal information in class discussions. It is expected that you will respect the privacy of classmates. The personal information disclosed in this class should not be repeated outside of the course.

Access to Computers: You will need a Windows or Mac computer for this class. A laptop or tablet will be useful for the recitations. Access to a computer with a keyboard (e.g., a laptop or desktop) is necessary to participate in the research project. If you are having difficulty accessing a computer, please contact me or Prof. Thompson. Students must have access to their GMU email account. Students should feel free to communicate with me via email. Updates and notifications will be sent to the class email list using your GMU email address. If you need to use university facilities, you can find out about location and hours of university facilities at http://www.labs.gmu.edu/ or ask at the information desk at the Johnson Center. I will ONLY use your GMU Email address to contact you. Please use and check this address frequently. You may forward your GMU email to another address if you like, but please ensure that you are receiving the email to your GMU Email address.

Cancellation Policy In case class needs to be canceled due to an unexpected event, students will be informed via email as soon as possible. Make-up sessions will be arranged for canceled classes.

The syllabus and class schedule is subject to change if circumstances require.

RECITATION SCHEDULE

Week 1   **Introduction to Cognitive Psychology**
Jan 16   *Chapter 1 What is Cognitive Psychology?* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition.*
             Marr's Levels of Analysis
             Methods of Cognitive Psychology: Simple and Complex Reaction Time

Week 2   **Cognitive Neuroscience**
Jan 23   *Chapter 2 Cognitive Neuroscience.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition.*
             Anatomy Refresher
             Neuropsychology Case Studies

Week 3   **Perception and Mental Imagery**
Jan 30   *Chapter 3 Perception and Mental Imagery.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition.*
             Illusions
             Face blindness
             Mental rotation

Week 4   **Attention**
Feb 6   *Chapter 4 External Attention. Chun & Most (2022). Cognition.*
             Visual Search & Feature Integration Theory
             Posner Covert Orienting of Attention Task
             Change Blindness

Week 5   **Cognitive Control and Working Memory**
Feb 13   *Chapter 5 Cognitive Control and Working Memory.* Chun & Most (2022).
             Cognition

             <mark>*EXAM 1 (in Recitation)*</mark>

Week 6   **Everyday Memory**
Feb 20   *Chapter 6 Everyday Memory.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition*
             Spacing Effect
             Autobiographical Memory
             Memory Schemas

Week 7   **Memory Systems**
Feb 27   *Chapter 7 Memory Systems.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition*
             Declarative and Procedural Memory
             Primacy and Recency Effects
             Amnesia

Week 8   ***SPRING BREAK***

March 5   Enjoy your spring break! :)

Week 9   **Language and Communication**
March 12   *Chapter 8 Language and Communication.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition*
              Lexical Decision Task
              Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis
              Spreading Activation
              Large Language Models

Week 10   **Judgment and Decision Making**
March 19   *Chapter 9 Judgment and Decision Making.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition*

              <mark>*EXAM 2 (in Recitation)*</mark>

Week 11   **Reasoning and Problem Solving**
March 26   *Chapter 10 Reasoning and Problem Solving.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition*
              Research Project Results
              Game Theory

Week 12   **Knowledge and Intelligence**
April 2   *Chapter 11 Knowledge, Intelligence, and Cognitive Development.* Chun & Most
              (2022). *Cognition*
              Animal Cognition
              Emotional Intelligence

Week 13   **Artificial Intelligence**
April 9   ChatGPT

              <mark>*Research Report Due 5pm Weds April 10*</mark>

Week 14   **Social Cognition**
April 16   *Chapter 12 Social Cognition.* Chun & Most (2022). *Cognition.*
              Misinformation

Week 15   **Course Review**
April 23

              <mark>*EXAM 3 (in Recitation)*</mark>

May 2   <mark>*EXAM 4 (Optional)*</mark>