

Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 317-001 Fall 2019

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday 9:00-10:15am

Class Location: Robinson B111

Instructor: Rachel Nguyen, MA

Email: rnguye@gmu.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Office: David King Hall, 1014-E

Text:

Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience. 4th edition. By E. Bruce Goldstein

ISBN-13: 978-1285763880

ISBN-10: 1285763882

Note: We will not use CogLab or Coursemate (extra). Please look into Amazon or Cengage for reduced prices. You may use the 5th edition, but the course material will be taught from the 4th edition.

Objectives:

At the end of this course, students should understand the basic principles of the field of cognitive psychology as well as methods used in cognitive research. Students should be able to identify and define relevant terms and principles, determine what research methods would be best applied to study certain topics, and appreciate how cognitive science as a whole plays a role in the field of psychology. These objectives will be met through readings, lectures, in-class pop quizzes, and exams. The class will be divided up into 3 sections:

Section 1: Cognitive Psychology Foundations (Ch. 1,2,3,4)

Section 2: Memory (Ch. 5,6,7,8)

Section 3: Higher Order Cognition (Ch. 9, 10, 12, 13)

Grading: Course grading will be broken down into the following categories:

	Point Breakdown (pts)	Total (pts)
Exam 1	50	50
Exam 2	50	50
Exam 3	50	50
Final	50	50
Pop-Quizzes	12 total quizzes. 2 lowest dropped. Each quiz is worth 4 points.	40
SONA	3 total hours (i.e. 30 min = 5 points)	30
Participation		10
Total		230pts

Grading Point Breakdown: Please keep track of your grades.

Grade	Points required (out of 230)
A+ (97-100%)	223
A (90-96%)	207
B+ (87-89%)	198
B (80-86%)	184
C+ (77-79%)	174
C (70-76%)	160
D (60-69%)	137

Exams:

There will be 3 Midterm exams (one for each section) as well as a cumulative Final exam given during Finals week. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The lowest exam score will be dropped from students' final grades, resulting in a possible 150 points from exams. Because students are able to drop an exam grade, **no make-up exams will be provided** unless there are extenuating circumstances; in these cases, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor to discuss the possibility of a make-up exam. Plan to take all 3 midterm exams.

Note: Most questions in the exams will include material covered from lecture; there will also be some questions from the readings that may not be covered during lecture. (You are responsible for keeping up with the readings).

Pop Quizzes:

12 Pop Quizzes will be *randomly* given throughout the semester at the *beginning* of class; they will **cover information from the previous lectures and reading material up until that day**. You will be able to drop 2 Quiz Scores. Please note that these quizzes cannot be made up. If you are absent or come in late after the quiz is finished, the quiz cannot be made up. I am giving the option to drop the lowest 2 quiz grades for planned or accidental absences/tardiness. If you come in late and the quiz is still currently being given, you have until the remaining of the quiz to do as much as possible.

SONA:

Students are required to complete 3 hours of SONA research participation/credit. Students will need to register at the following website in order to receive login information and complete the research credits: <https://gmu.sona-systems.com>. Students are required to attend the experiments they schedule via SONA and are responsible for keeping track of the appointment time, location, and experimenter information. If a student must cancel their appointment, he/she is required to do so at least 24 hours before the time of the experiment. If there is an emergency within 24 hours and you must cancel your appointment, contact the researcher with the contact information provided on SONA. Those who are unable to fulfill the SONA participation requirement due to extenuating circumstances must discuss an alternative assignment with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the SONA deadline. *SONA credits must be completed by the SONA deadline on Saturday, December 7th*.

I highly recommend: That you try do some of your hours in the beginning of the semester. Also, though the experimenter will be granting your credits, it would be a

good idea to check yourself to see if you received your credits later in the day (and kindly remind the experimenter if the credits have not been granted).

*Do not wait until the last minute to try to complete your SONA credits

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474.

All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

If you have a Faculty Contact Sheet, please be sure to give that to me at the start of class or as soon as possible so that we can work together to make the semester as smooth as possible for you.

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. It is every student's responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with the Honor Code. The Honor Code is available at: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Responsible Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

Technology Usage:

Communications regarding class, assignments and other important announcements will be disseminated through Blackboard and GMU email accounts. Students are expected to regularly check both Blackboard and their GMU email accounts.

All email correspondence with the instructor must be done via GMU email accounts. This is to make sure that I know the email is coming from you. Emails that do not include the course and section number in the subject line and the student's name in the body of the email may not receive a response.

Class Cancellation Policy:

Please check blackboard and your GMU email regularly. If class is cancelled, I will notify students via email and blackboard, and will announce how we will make the time up. For University-wide cancellations, follow GMU-issued announcements.

Important Dates: (it is your responsibility to drop yourself from the course)

Last Day to Add Classes: Tuesday, September 3rd

Last Day to Drop Classes with 100% Tuition Refund: Monday, September 9th

Final Drop Deadline with 50% Tuition Refund: Tuesday, September 17th

Student Self-Withdrawal Period (100% Tuition liability): September 18th - 30th

Class Schedule *Subject to Change

Date	Covered Topics	Date	Covered Topics
8/26	<i>Class Intro (Review Syllabus)</i> Chapter 1 (<i>Intro + History</i>)	10/21	Chapter 8 (<i>LTM errors</i>)
8/28	Chapter 1 (<i>Intro + History</i>)	*10/23	Section 2 Exam (Ch.5-8)
9/2	Chapter 2 (<i>Cognitive Neuroscience</i>)	10/28	Chapter 9 (<i>Knowledge</i>)
9/4	Chapter 2 (<i>Cognitive Neuroscience</i>)	10/30	Chapter 9 (<i>Knowledge</i>)
9/9	Chapter 3 (<i>Perception</i>)	11/4	Chapter 10 (<i>Visual Imagery</i>)
9/11	Chapter 3 (<i>Perception</i>)	11/6	Chapter 10 (<i>Visual Imagery</i>)
9/16	Chapter 4 (<i>Attention</i>)	11/11	Chapter 12 (<i>Problem Solving</i>)
9/18	Chapter 4 (<i>Attention</i>)	11/13	Chapter 12 (<i>Problem Solving</i>)
*9/23	Section 1 Exam (Ch. 1-4)	11/18	Chapter 13 (<i>Reasoning & Decisions</i>)
9/25	Chapter 5 (<i>Short-term & Working Memory</i>)	11/20	Chapter 13 (<i>Reasoning & Decisions</i>)
9/30	Chapter 5 (<i>STM & WM</i>)	11/25	Happy Thanksgiving – no class this week
10/2	Chapter 6 (<i>LTM Structure</i>)	11/27	Happy Thanksgiving – no class this week
10/7	Chapter 6 (<i>LTM Structure</i>)	*12/2	Section 3 Exam (Ch.9, 10, 12, 13)
10/9	Chapter 7 (<i>LTM: Encoding & Retrieval</i>)	*12/4	Review *SONA deadline: 12/7*
10/14→ 10/15	“Fall Break” (10/14-10/15: Monday classes meet Tuesday; No Monday Class; We will meet Tuesday) Chapter 7 (<i>LTM: Encoding & Retrieval</i>)	*12/11	Cumulative Final Exam *9:00-10:15am*
10/16	Chapter 8 (<i>LTM errors</i>)		

***Assignment due or Exam**

NOTE: I reserve the right to make edits to this schedule based on several factors, including the progression of lecture. Any changes will be announced in class.