

SYLLABUS
PSYCHOLOGY 317-DL3 and DL4: Cognitive Psychology

Instructor: Elizabeth Phillips, Ph.D.

Office: TBD David King Hall

Phone: TBD

E-mail: ephill3@gmu.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment. I am Happy to accommodate a virtual face to face meeting as needed. Please email for appointment

Online learning tool: Blackboard

Course Description: This course is a deep dive into the study of cognition, including contemporary concepts and theories. Cognitive Psychology is concerned with the scientific study of the *mind*. Topics to be covered include perception, attention, imagery, memory, language, problem solving and decision-making. For each topic, the evidence will be considered in the context of longstanding discoveries and theory. Although the focus will be primarily on understanding cognition as it relates to behavior, brain mechanisms and computational approaches will be also be considered. The focus of the lectures and activities will primarily be on theories and concepts, and course discussions will be driven by differing conceptualizations of the theory and research applications.

Reading Assignments:

It is essential that you complete the required readings. YOU WILL BE READING THE ENTIRE BOOK IN 15 WEEKS. Ensuring that you have time to complete the readings will help to ensure that you do well in this course. A suggested reading and assignment completion schedule can be found in the "To-do" lists provided with each module on BB.

Required Text: E. Bruce Goldstein *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience (5th edition)*, Wadsworth/Cengage publishing

THE ONLINE MATERIALS COUPLED WITH THE TEXTBOOK ARE NOT REQUIRED. You only need the text for this course. We will not use additional online materials provided by the publisher.

What you need to know about this course:

This course is completely online, so each student will have to take considerable responsibility for pacing their progress and learning the material. To succeed in this course, you will need to exert effort to keep yourself on a timeline that will allow you to complete material in a timely manner. Many assignments and exams will be available at the outset, so students who want to work ahead can do so. Assignments and exams have due dates. Due dates are not chosen to vex students. They allow the instructor the ability to plan how and when they will grade and provide feedback to students while balancing the rest of their responsibilities. Please see the grading schedule for the policy on due dates and late assignments. Please plan accordingly, keeping a detailed planner/calendar and sticking to it will help. A suggested reading and

assignment completion schedule can be found in the “To-do” lists provided with each module on BB.

It is absolutely necessary for you to familiarize yourself with the online content associated with this course located on Blackboard. We will not be using any of the online materials provided by the textbook published and bundled with the text. If you have the option to forgo purchasing these materials, please do not purchase them. Familiarizing yourself with the materials will require reading all of the handouts and instructions provided on Blackboard. The instructor and ITS at George Mason are available for assistance, but if you have difficulty with any of the resources, please be sure to read the associated instructions and handouts prior to requesting assistance. It’s important that you address any technological issues you may be having with Blackboard early, because I cannot accept late assignments.

The instructor will be available by email throughout the entire semester. You may email with questions, comments, concerns, etc. I do not yet have an office phone at GMU, but as soon as I do, I will make it known to the class and you may reach me that way as well. Throughout the semester, all emails (or potential voice mails) will be answered within 2 business (M-F) days – although responses will usually come within 1 business day, please allow 2 business days. During the first week, the instructor will be online and checking email even more frequently and will endeavor to answer all questions within several hours.

Grading, Evaluation, and Grading Schedule:

Final grades will be calculated out of 1,000 total points in the course. To allow for flexibility in point accumulation in the course, maximum points available for assignments will be awarded on a sliding scale based on the day in which they are turned in. Turning in assignments early will yield bonus, extra credit points, turning in assignments on time will earn full points, and turning in assignments late will yield partial credit. Students can choose their own adventure in regard to earning points in this course.

All assignments turned in on-time and by the full credit due date listed below in this syllabus will be awarded full credit. Assignments completed by the bonus due date will be given a 5%-point bonus in return for completing the assignment early. Assignments turned in up to 24 hours after the full credit due date can earn a maximum of 75% of the points for that assignment. All other late work can earn a maximum of 50% of the points possible for that assignment. Assignments not completed by April 30th, 2021 will be awarded zero points. All types of due dates will be provided to students in the in “To-do lists” provided with each module in our BB course.

Assignments, Exams, and Grade (based on 3 components)

1. **Syllabus and Course Logistics Quiz: 45 points (5%).** Your first assignment is designed to familiarize you with the online course. Your task is to answer a series of questions about the syllabus and logistics of the course. This is due within the **FIRST SEVEN DAYS** of the course (recommended within the **FIRST FIVE DAYS**) and is designed to ensure that all students have fully read over the material necessary to succeed in the course. **YOU ARE ALLOWED TO USE ALL COURSE MATERIALS WHILE COMPLETING THIS QUIZ.** The purpose is not to test your memorization of the information, but rather to ensure that you have read and understand the logistics of the course and know where to find information about the course when needed as well as the operating rules and procedures of the course.
2. **Chapter Assignments: 455 points (45%).** Each chapter assignment is worth 35 points. After just about every chapter, there are two types of assignments that must be completed and submitted in Blackboard, a chapter quiz or a short reaction paper. Credit is assigned based on quality and timely completion of assignments. The quizzes are **OPEN NOTE** and untimed. However, be sure to check the quality of your work as your initial performance is your only opportunity to submit. Reaction papers are brief 250-500-word writings on a topic related to the chapter material. (NOTE: there will never be both a post-chapter quiz and a short reaction paper. It will always be either/or).
3. **Module Exams: 500 points (50%).** Each module exam is worth 100 points. There will be one exam per module of the course – 6 exams total. **YOUR LOWEST EXAM GRADE WILL BE DROPPED.** Also, exam questions will be randomly selected **for each student**, so no student will take the same exam. Questions are taken from a pool of over 1,000 questions and matched for difficulty and content.

Students will have only one attempt to complete all assignments.

Grading schedule:

Student assignments will be graded on the following schedule which will change the total possible points to be earned based on when the assignment is turned in: Plus 5% of total possible points for work turned in early, 100% of possible points for assignments submitted on the due date, 75% of possible points for assignments submitted one day (up to 24 hours) late, and 50% of total possible points for late work after one day late. The full credit due date ends at 11:59pm. The Due Date and time refer to the submission time, not the start time in BB. If you start an exam at 11:50pm and submit the exam at 12:15am, then that exam is marked as late and will be credited according to the schedule described above.

Grading scale:

The final grade will be calculated by summing the above points and dividing by 1,000, with 100% (1,000 points) as the highest possible total grade. Letter grades will be assigned using the plus-minus format.

Total Course Points	Grade
970-1,000	A+
930-969	A
900-929	A-
870-899	B+
830-869	B
800-829	B-
770-799	C+
730-769	C
700-729	C-
660-699	D
<660	F

FINAL EXAM:

The final exam is TBD and will be announced by the middle of the semester according to the rules set forth by the University's final examination guidelines.

Make-up exams:

Due to the unique grading structure of late assignments in the course, there will be no make up exams.

Other Policies

Safe Return to Campus:

Although we are conducting this course entirely online, it is a good idea to familiarize yourselves with Mason's COVID-19 policies this semester and beyond. All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to take Safe Return to Campus Training prior to visiting campus. Training is available in Blackboard (<https://mymason.gmu.edu>). Students are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage (www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-plan). Similarly, all students in face-to-face and hybrid courses must also complete the Mason COVID Health Check daily, seven days a week. The COVID Health Check system uses a color code system and students will receive either a Green, Yellow, or Red email response. Only students who receive a "green" notification are permitted to attend courses with a face-to-face component. If you suspect that you are sick or have been directed to self-isolate, please quarantine or get testing. Faculty are allowed to ask you to show them that you have received a Green email and are thereby permitted to be in class.

Of course, my sincere wish is that every student in this course remains healthy for the duration of the course and beyond. If, however, you become ill with COVID-19, please let me know ASAP so that we can make accommodations for your assignments. If I become ill with COVID-19, I will do the same. We will follow policy and procedure guidance set forth by the University and by the Department of Psychology.

More information about the University's COVID-19 policies can be found here:

<https://www2.gmu.edu/Safe-Return-Campus>

If the campus closes or class is canceled due to weather, COVID-19, or other concern, students should check their email and Blackboard for updates from the university on how to continue learning, and for information about any changes to events or assignments.

Technology Usage and technology requirements:

All primary contact in the course will be via email and Blackboard; thus, you are required to check your Mason email account regularly and to keep your mailbox maintained so that messages will not be rejected for being over quota. You may forward GMU emails to other accounts, but emails to the instructor should come only from your GMU account; due to federal rights and privacy laws, instructors are not allowed to accept emails from non-GMU accounts. For this course, all assignments must be completed online within Blackboard (see below). You may need to download various free programs (e.g., Adobe Shockwave) to view some of the resources. To do best in this course, it is a good idea to have access to a designated computer (not mobile) with good internet connection and the ability to download, open, and upload MS Word and Adobe PDF files.

The Following language regarding technology for the course has been provided by the University:

Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use the Blackboard learning system, available at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>. Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher. You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.)

Online Course Resources:

The course will be run through Blackboard. ***It is extremely important to access Blackboard through the MyMason Portal – please follow these instructions, as they may differ from your normal method of accessing Blackboard:***

1. Go to <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/>
2. Login using your Mason ID and password (the same one you use for your GMU email account)
3. Click on the “Courses” tab (toward the top left of the menu)
4. Click on the link for Psyc 317-DL3

The class website in Blackboard will contain access to videos, assignments, exams, and other course resources. Nearly all course activities will take place in Blackboard, so it is important to login and begin to explore the various components in the first days of the semester.

Special needs and disability services:

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500.
Email:ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with a special need. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please **contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474**. In order for me to appropriately accommodate your need, you will need to register with this office. The office will then contact me to let me know how I can work with the office and you to ensure your success in this course. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Thank you.

If you are or become impacted by COVID-19, the disability services office has provided special information regarding COVID-19's impact on special accommodations at the link below. Please review this policy: <https://ds.gmu.edu/response-to-covid-19/>

University Honor policy:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated.

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously, and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task and abide by the policies of the course. If you rely on someone else's work in any part of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

Some kinds of participation in online study sites violate the Mason Honor code: these include accessing exam or quiz questions for this class; accessing exam, quiz, or assignment answers for this class; uploading of any of the instructor's materials or exams; and uploading any of your own answers or finished work. Always consult your syllabus and your professor before using these sites.

I will deal with academic dishonesty in accordance with George Mason University's Student Code of Conduct. I recommend that you familiarize yourself with the policies set forth by GMU. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation. If you have questions about what may or may not be a violation of academic honesty, I recommend you visit the following: <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/full-honor-code-document/>

The office of academic integrity also offers a training course on the subject if you would like more information. A good general rule is that if you think the behavior is questionable, it's probably better to assume that it's not a good idea. Check with me if you need clarification and protect your integrity.

Diversity and Inclusion:

In this course we will seek to create a learning environment that fosters respect for people across identities. We welcome and value individuals and their differences, including gender expression and identity, race, economic status, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age and ability. We encourage all members of the learning environment to engage with the material personally, but to also be open to exploring and learning from

experiences different than their own. If you wish for me to address you in a preferred manner, please let me know.

Sexual Harassment, (Online) 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 that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order 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 speaks to the specifics of Mason's process, the resources, and the options available to students.

As a faculty member and designated "Responsible Employee," **I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking and/or online misconduct to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412.** If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

Important Dates:

Fall session start/end: January 25th – December 16th

Last Day to Add: February 1st

Unrestricted withdraw: March 1st

Selective withdraw: April 1st

Final exam: TBD

Projected Course Schedule Spring 2021

Please see the Module To-Do lists for bonus credit due dates and suggested schedule of activities for the course.

Module	Week	Dates	Topic	Full Credit Due Dates All Assignments due by 11:59 pm on date listed below
1	Week 1	Jan 25-29	Course overview/Into (Chap 1)	Feb 1-Syllabus Quiz Due
1	Week 2	Feb 1-Feb. 5	Cognitive Neuroscience (Chap2)	Feb 5 -Chap 1-2 Quiz Due
1	Week 3	Feb.8-Feb. 12	Perception (Chap 3) Module 1 Exam	Feb 12-Chap 3 Paper Due Feb 15-Module 1 Exam Due
2	Week 4	Feb. 15-Feb 19	Attention (Chap 4)	Feb 19-Chap 4 Quiz Due
2	Week 5	Feb 22-Feb 26	Memory part 1 (Chap 5) Module 2 Exam	Feb 26-Chap 5 Paper Due March 1-Module 2 Exam Due
3	Week 6	March 1-March 5	Long term memory part 1 (Chap 6)	March 5-Chap 6 Quiz Due
3	Week 7	Oct 5-March 12	Long term memory part 2 (Chap 7) Module 3 Exam	March 12-Chap 7 Paper Due March 15-Module 3 Exam Due
	Week 8	March 15-19	Mid-point course break	
4	Week 9	March 22-26	Everyday Memory (Chap 8)	March 26-Chap 8 Quiz Due
4	Week10	March 29-April 2	Knowledge (Chap 9) Module 4 Exam	April 2-Chapter 9 Paper Due April 5-Module 4 Exam Due
5	Week 11	April 5-April 9	Visual Imagery (Chap 10)	April 9-Chap 10 Paper Due
5	Week 12	April 12-April 16	Language (Chap 11) Module 5 Exam	April 16-Chap 11 Quiz Due April 19-Module 5 Exam Due
6	Week 13	April 19-April 23	Problem Solving (Chap 12)	April 23-Chap 12 Paper Due
6	Week 14	April 26-April 30	Decision Making (Chapter 13) Module 6 Exam	April 30-Chap 13 Quiz Due May 3-Module 6 Exam Due
Last day to turn in assignments and any extra credit for this course: April 30th				
	Final Exam	May 3-May 10	TBD	Due Date TBD

Note: Dr. Phillips reserves the right to modify the policies outlined in this syllabus and in the schedule given above at the discretion of the needs of the course. If changes are needed, she will revise the Syllabus, announce the changes to the course, and distribute a revised document to the students enrolled in this course.