

# PSYC 317-003

Cognitive Psychology

*Spring 2022*

## Basic Information

### About Instructor

- **Name:** Isabella Lalena
- **Email:** [ilalena@gmu.edu](mailto:ilalena@gmu.edu)
- **Virtual office hours:** Wednesdays 4PM-5PM (see Blackboard course for Zoom link)

### About Course

- **Course number and section:** PSYC 317-003
- **Title:** Cognitive Psychology
- **Meeting days and times:** Tuesdays/Thursdays 9AM-10:15AM
- **Building and room:** Horizon Hall 3008
- **Course modality:** In-person

## Communications Statement

Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. Emails will generally be answered within 24hrs between 9AM-5PM Mondays-Fridays. Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. I will not respond to messages sent from a non-Mason email address.

## Recommended Prerequisites

6 credits of psychology or permission of instructor

## Supplemental Text (Not Required)

Goldstein, E.B. (2019). Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Thompson Wadsworth.

## Technology Statement

This course requires the use of your Mason email and Blackboard.

## About the Course

### University Catalog Course Description

An in-depth overview of important topics in cognitive psychology, including memory, attention, pattern recognition, problem solving, reasoning, and psycholinguistics.

## Course Learning Outcomes

- Define and explain basic cognitive psychology concepts
- Distinguish between key theories of perception, attention, memory, visual imagery, language, and decision-making
- Evaluate and interpret empirical research of cognitive psychology
- Clearly communicate cognitive psychology research to a general audience

## Grading and Course Requirements

### Grading Breakdown

Course grading will be broken down into the following categories:

Assignment	Worth (pts)
Quizzes	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Final Paper	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>400pts</b>

### Grading Scale

Grade
A+ (97.0-100%)
A (93.0-96.99%)
A- (90.0-92.99%)
B+ (87.0-89.99%)
B (83.0-86.99%)
B- (80.0-82.99%)
C+ (77.0-79.99%)
C (73.0-76.99%)
C- (70.0-72.99%)
D (60.0-69.99%)
F (0-59.99%)

### Course Assignments and Projects

**Eleven quizzes (100 points total, 10 points each)** There will be eleven quizzes in this class throughout the semester, each worth 10 points. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes will consist of ten multiple-choice questions, each worth one point. You will have the first 20 minutes of class to complete the quiz. Please see the Course Schedule for more details.

**Midterm exam (100 points):** The midterm exam will be cumulative and worth 100 points. Please see the Course Schedule for more details.

**Final exam (100 points):** The final exam will be cumulative and worth 100 points. Please see the Course Schedule for more details.

**Final research paper (100 points):** Students will write a three-page (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced) scientific research paper related to cognitive psychology, worth 100 points. Students may choose a relevant paper topic as long as it is approved by the instructor by the topic deadline (see Course Schedule). The topic should be related to one of the themes covered in class (e.g., perception, attention, memory, etc.). Papers should include an introduction, a thesis statement, supporting evidence, and a conclusion. The paper should be in APA format with in-text citations and a bibliography with at least 5 peer-reviewed sources. A grading rubric will be provided. The paper must be submitted to Blackboard by the deadline. Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file is uploaded. Incorrect or corrupted files will not be accepted.

## Late Work/Make-Up Work

No late work is accepted. No make-up quizzes or exams will be provided unless there are extenuating circumstances. The student is responsible for contacting the instructor to discuss the possibility of a make-up quiz or exam prior to the quiz or exam date.

## Safe Return To Campus

All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage (<https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus>). 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, Red, or Blue 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.

Students are required to follow Mason's current policy about facemask-wearing. As of August 11, 2021, all community members are required to wear a facemask in all indoor settings, including classrooms. An appropriate facemask must cover your nose and mouth at all times in the classroom.

## Campus Closure or Emergency Class Cancellation/Adjustment

If the campus closes, or if a class meeting needs to be cancelled or adjusted due to weather or other concern, students should check Blackboard or their Mason email for updates on how to continue learning and for information about any changes to events or assignments.

## University Policies

### Academic Integrity

Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted must be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is

important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using the appropriate format for this class. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

### Disability Accommodations

Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please 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](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) | Phone: (703) 993-2474

### Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence

**Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual or interpersonal misconduct:** As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. 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) 993-3686 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (703) 993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling (703) 993-8730 or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

## Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics Covered	Quizzes/Exams	Paper
1	1/25	Intro to Cognitive Psychology (Chapter 1)		
	1/27	Intro to Cognitive Psychology (Chapter 1)		
2	2/1	Cognitive Neuroscience (Chapter 2)	<b>Quiz 1</b> (on Chapter 1)	
	2/3	Cognitive Neuroscience (Chapter 2)		
3	2/8	Perception (Chapter 3)	<b>Quiz 2</b> (on Chapter 2)	
	2/10	Perception (Chapter 3)		
4	2/15	Attention (Chapter 4)	<b>Quiz 3</b> (on Chapter 3)	
	2/17	Attention (Chapter 4)		
5	2/22	Short Term & Working Memory (Chapter 5)	<b>Quiz 4</b> (on Chapter 4)	
	2/24	Short-Term & Working Memory (Chapter 5)		
6	3/1	Long-Term Memory Structure (Chapter 6)	<b>Quiz 5</b> (on Chapter 5)	
	3/3	Long-Term Memory Structure (Chapter 6)		
7	3/8	Long-Term Memory Encoding & Retrieval (Chapter 7)	<b>Quiz 6</b> (on Chapter 6)	
	3/10	Long-Term Memory Encoding & Retrieval (Chapter 7)		
8	3/15	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>No Class</b>	
	3/17	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>No Class</b>	

9	3/22	Midterm Review Session		
	3/24		<b>Midterm</b> (on Chapters 1-7)	
10	3/29	Memory Errors (Chapter 8)		
	3/31	Memory Errors (Chapter 8)		
11	4/5	Knowledge (Chapter 9)	<b>Quiz 7</b> (on Chapter 8)	Paper Requirements
	4/7	Knowledge (Chapter 9)		
12	4/12	Visual Imagery (Chapter 10)	<b>Quiz 8</b> (on Chapter 9)	<b>Paper Topic Due</b> on Blackboard
	4/14	Visual Imagery (Chapter 10)		
13	4/19	Language (Chapter 11)	<b>Quiz 9</b> (on Chapter 10)	Library Resources/Writing Center
	4/21	Language (Chapter 11)		
14	4/26	Problem Solving (Chapter 12)	<b>Quiz 10</b> (on Language)	Citations/References
	4/28	Problem Solving (Chapter 12)		
15	5/3	Reasoning & Decision Making (Chapter 13)	<b>Quiz 11</b> (on Chapter 12)	
	5/5	Reasoning & Decision Making (Chapter 13)		<b>Final Paper Due</b> on Blackboard
16	5/10	<b>Reading Day</b>	<b>No Class</b>	
	<b>5/12</b> <b>7:30 - 10:15AM</b>		<b>Final Exam</b> (Cumulative)	

**Note:** This schedule may be subject to change.

**Spring 2022 Academic Calendar:** [https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring\\_2022-1/](https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring_2022-1/)

**Spring 2022 Final Exam Schedule:** <https://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Spring-2022-Final-Exam-Schedule.pdf>