**SYLLABUS**

**PSYCHOLOGY 317 DL1: Cognitive Psychology**

**Instructor:** Dr. E. Phillips (Dr. P)
**Office:** 2062 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 Overview and Objectives:** 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 and brain mechanisms, computational approaches will 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. Any form of the text (e.g., physical, digital, rented, etc.) is fine.

**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 schedule 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 to 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.

**Technology:**
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 publisher and bundled with the text. If you have the option to forgo purchasing these materials, please do no 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.

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. If the instructor has not responded within this time frame it is likely due to the fact that the answer to the question is contained in this syllabus. 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.

**Official Communications via GMU Email:**
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.

**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 can 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 May 7th, 2022, will be awarded zero points. All
types of due dates will be provided to students in the "To-do lists" provided with each module in our BB course and will be clearly marked on assignments in BB.
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 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 due at the same time. 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Course Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>970-1,000</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>930-969</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>900-929</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>870-899</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>830-869</td>
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<td>660-699</td>
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<td>&lt;660</td>
<td>F</td>
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**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. In the past the final exam has been optional for students.

**Make-up exams:**
Due to the unique grading structure of late assignments in the course, there will be no make up assignments or exams.
Safe Return to Campus:

The university will open as planned on January 3, and spring semester classes will begin as planned on January 24. We will require all faculty, staff, and students to obtain a booster shot as soon as they are able, and provide proof of the booster to Mason. And we will continue our indoor masking, testing, and Mason COVID Health Check requirements.

As in the fall, the spring semester’s success will depend upon the active cooperation of the entire Mason community. We are all in this together. Here are the next steps required as we plan for a safe and healthy spring semester:

BOOSTERS:

Public health experts have advised that vaccines are still the most effective tools to combat COVID-19, and recent scientific data overwhelmingly supports the effectiveness of booster shots in preventing severe disease and hospitalization.

Mason will require COVID-19 boosters for all faculty, staff and students, in observance of US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. Boosters are available for free to all faculty, staff, and students at Fenwick Library A Wing and also locally. Please schedule an appointment at vaccine.gmu.edu.

The CDC has approved and recommended vaccine boosters for anyone over age 16 who completed the Pfizer or Moderna series at least six months ago. Individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eligible to receive a booster after at least two months. Individuals who received a WHO authorized vaccine different from Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson are eligible for a booster after six months.

All Mason students, faculty and staff must submit proof that you’ve received the booster. Mason students who were vaccinated by the August 1, 2021 deadline are eligible to receive a booster on February 1, 2022. The deadline to receive a booster and upload your documentation is February 15, 2022.

Mason faculty and staff who were vaccinated by the August 15, 2021 deadline are eligible to receive a booster on February 15, 2022. The deadline to receive a booster and upload your documentation is February 15, 2022.

Please submit your documentation through the Medicat Health Service portal. Those who are not eligible for a booster by February 2, 2022 will not be considered non-compliant until two weeks after your eligibility date.
Please consult with your primary healthcare provider if you have medical questions or concerns about the booster. You may apply for a medical or religious exemption from the booster, and if you received an exemption for the COVID vaccine, the exemption will also apply to this booster requirement. You do not need to re-apply for a medical or religious exemption unless your circumstances have changed.

We urge you to receive the booster as soon as you are eligible if you have not done so already. Please schedule your appointment at vaccine.gmu.edu.

TESTING:

All residential students, vaccinated and unvaccinated, are required to take a pre-arrival COVID test which will be supplied by Mason. If positive, you will not be able to move in until your isolation period is concluded. All residential students will be required to test again at move in and also 48 hours after their move-in test. Detailed information for residential students will be sent via email directly to them and will include specific instructions for various residential populations (SciTech Campus, Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, international students, etc.).

All faculty and staff, vaccinated and unvaccinated, who do not have an approved fully remote work agreement are required to test the week of January 17. Please note: This requirement applies to faculty and staff who have partial or no remote work agreements. Mason will continue to offer on-campus testing, and we encourage the community to get tested when needed. In addition to our regular testing hours, testing will be available on Saturday, January 22 and Sunday, January 23. Please visit https://www.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus/personal-and-public-health/covid-19-testing for testing hours and locations. If at any point if you develop symptoms, please seek medical care through your primary care provider, diagnostic testing locations, or Student Health Services. Please do not come to the Fenwick surveillance testing center if you are symptomatic.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE:

In accordance with CDC guidance, Mason has revised the previously required 10-day isolation and 14-day quarantine period to 5 days for those who test negative and are asymptomatic. For more details on isolation and quarantine requirements, please visit Mason’s Isolation and Quarantine Period Guidelines.

MASKS:

Masks remain important tools for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and continue to be required at Mason as they were in the fall semester. Some health experts are calling for the public to upgrade from cloth masks to at least surgical masks or even higher protective masks (i.e., N95, KN95, or KF94). We are working to obtain these newly recommended masks and will
provide an update on their availability soon. To learn more about what type of mask is right for you, please visit the CDC website for advice about masks.

**MASON COVID HEALTH CHECK:**

The Mason COVID Health Check is still a critical part of our plan to keep our campuses safe. This spring, we are streamlining the Mason COVID Health Check and will now only require you to fill out the survey on the days you are coming to a Mason campus or site, or when you need to report a positive test.

Please continue to use the Mason COVID Health Check as your information helps our health and safety experts understand the extent and impact of COVID within the Mason community. If you have symptoms that could be COVID or are unexplained, please consult with your health care provider or Student Health Services, and get a diagnostic test if appropriate. Thank you in advance for your continued commitment to maintaining your own health and that of your fellow Mason Patriots.

*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](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/](https://ds.gmu.edu/response-to-covid-19/)

University Honor policy:

**Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated.**

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.

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:**

**Spring session start/end:** January 24th – May 7th  
**Last Day to Add:** January 31st  
**Last Day to Drop with No Tuition Penalty:** Feb 7th  
**Unrestricted withdraw:** February 15th - March 1st  
**Selective withdraw:** April 11th  
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Full Credit Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 24-28</td>
<td>Course overview/Intro (Chap 1)</td>
<td>Jan 31-Syllabus Quiz Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan 31-Feb. 4</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience (Chap 2)</td>
<td>Feb 4-Chap 1-2 Quiz Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Feb 7-Feb. 11</td>
<td>Perception (Chap 3)</td>
<td>Feb 11-Chap 3 Paper Due</td>
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<td><strong>Module 1 Exam</strong></td>
<td>Feb 14-Module 1 Exam Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Feb. 14-Feb 18</td>
<td>Attention (Chap 4)</td>
<td>Feb 18-Chap 4 Quiz Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 21-Feb 25</td>
<td>Memory part 1 (Chap 5)</td>
<td>Feb 25-Chap 5 Paper Due</td>
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<td><strong>Module 2 Exam</strong></td>
<td>Feb 28-Module 2 Exam Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 28-March 4</td>
<td>Long term memory part 1 (Chap 6)</td>
<td>March 4-Chap 6 Quiz Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>March 7-March 11</td>
<td>Long term memory part 2 (Chap 7)</td>
<td>March 11-Chap 7 Paper Due</td>
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<td><strong>Module 3 Exam</strong></td>
<td>March 14-Module 3 Exam Due</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>March 14-March 18</td>
<td>Spring Recess</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>March 21- March 25</td>
<td>Everyday Memory (Chap 8)</td>
<td>March 25-Chap 8 Quiz Due</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>March 28-April 1</td>
<td>Knowledge (Chap 9)</td>
<td>April 1-Chapter 9 Paper Due</td>
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<td><strong>Module 4 Exam</strong></td>
<td>April 4-Module 4 Exam Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>April 4-April 8</td>
<td>Visual Imagery (Chap 10)</td>
<td>April 8-Chap 10 Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>April 11-April 15</td>
<td>Language (Chap 11)</td>
<td>April 15-Chap 11 Quiz Due</td>
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<td><strong>Module 5 Exam</strong></td>
<td>April 18-Module 5 Exam Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>April 18-April 22</td>
<td>Problem Solving (Chap 12)</td>
<td>April 22-Chap 12 Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>April 25-April 29</td>
<td>Decision Making (Chapter 13)</td>
<td>April 29-Chap 13 Quiz Due</td>
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<td><strong>Module 6 Exam</strong></td>
<td>May 2-Module 6 Exam Due</td>
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<td><strong>Last day to turn in assignments and any extra credit for this course:</strong> May 7th</td>
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| Final Exam | May 11-May 18 | 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.