

**Introduction to Cognition
Psychology 2135b**

Winter 2012

Class Meetings

Wednesdays and Fridays 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM in St. James room 304

Course Instructor Dr. Jennifer Sutton
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Required Materials:

- Galotti, K. M., Fernandes, M. A., Fugelsang, J., & Stolz, J. A. (2010). *Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory, First Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Nelson.
- Online subscription to CogLab. Information about accessing CogLab will be provided in class. Note that an alternative assignment is described below for students who opt not to purchase CogLab access.

Course Website

Registered students will see the course listed on their My Owl page of WebCT.

Course Description and Information

An introduction to empirical, computational, and theoretical approaches to the study of human cognitive processes. The topics surveyed will include: perception, attention, memory, concepts, language and problem-solving. The course will show how these diverse psychological processes are related to and influence one another.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in a 1000 level Psychology course

Course learning objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the methods used to investigate cognitive processes by researchers in psychology
- Explain how experimental methods in cognitive psychology can be used to infer mental processing
- Relate individual cognitive processes to each other and the broader function of thinking
- Apply basic research findings in cognitive psychology to everyday life

Evaluation

- Exam 1 (30%) in class on February 3
- Exam 2 (30%) in class on March 14
- Exam 3 (30%) in the April finals period
- CogLab participation (10%) throughout the semester OR 5 article assignments, each worth 2% (total = 10%)

Exams

The exams are not cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions drawn from material in the text and lectures. Exams 1 and 2 will be 2 hours long and will take place during class time. Exam 3 will also be 2 hours long and will take place during the April exam period. Note that some chapters are not listed on the schedule below, and you will not be responsible for the material in them.

Also note that make-up exams may consist, in part or exclusively, of essay, short-answer, and/or multiple-choice items.

CogLab participation

CogLab is an online suite of sample experiments based on research in cognitive psychology. As such, it offers hands-on experience with the methods scientists use to test cognitive processes. Understanding how behavioural responses can be used to interpret mental processes is a fundamental objective of this course, and this will allow students to directly experience this process.

Information about how to log in to the CogLab site will be provided in class. When you participate in an experiment, your data will be coded anonymously and aggregated with the rest of our class. That aggregated data will then be presented in class to illustrate various cognitive phenomena. I will be able to track whether you have participated or not in each experiment but will not access your personal responses.

Each experiment takes from 15 – 30 minutes to complete. To replicate real research conditions as much as possible, try to complete the experiments in a quiet area with no interruptions. Undivided attention is important for the outcome of most of the experiments.

- In order to have data from the class to include in the appropriate lecture, each experiment has a deadline a few days before the pertinent lecture. **To earn credit for participating in an experiment (1% for each experiment for a maximum of 10%), you must complete the experiment before the deadline.** Experiments may be completed at any time before the deadline, and may be completed after the deadline, although no credit will be earned in the latter case. Since participation is time-sensitive, no make-ups will be offered.

Alternative to CogLab participation

Instead of participating in the CogLab experiments, students may earn the same credit by reading five articles of the instructor's choosing (these will be posted on WebCT) and answering a set of questions for each one. Each completed question set will be worth 2% of the total mark, for a total of 10% if all five are completed.

COURSE SCHEDULE – subject to change, see WebCT Owl and announcements in class for updates

Date	Topic	Chapter	CogLab Experiment	CogLab deadline for credit
Jan 11	Welcome/History	1	--	
Jan 13	Cognitive Neuroscience	2	--	
Jan 18			<i>Brain Asymmetry</i>	Monday, Jan 16, Noon
Jan 20	Sensation and Perception	3	<i>Apparent Motion</i>	Wednesday, Jan 18, Noon
Jan 25	Object perception/Pattern recognition	3	<i>Change Detection</i>	Monday, Jan 23, Noon
Jan 27				
Feb 1	Attention	4	<i>Attentional Blink</i>	Monday, Jan 30, Noon
Feb 3	Exam 1 (30%) Chapters 1 – 4 + lectures			
Feb 8	Memory: Structures	5, 6	--	
Feb 10	Memory: Processes 1		<i>Memory Span</i>	Wednesday, Feb 8, Noon
Feb 15	Memory: Processes 2		<i>Sternberg Search, Serial Position</i>	Monday, Feb 13, Noon
Feb 17	Memory: Distortions		<i>False Memory</i>	Wednesday, Feb 15, Noon
<i>Feb 22 & 24: break week</i>				
Feb 29	Exceptional memory	5, 6	--	
Mar 2	Representation of Knowledge	6	--	
Mar 7	Consciousness	--	--	
Mar 9	Class data as review	--	--	
Mar 14	Exam 2 (30%) Chapters 5 and 6 + lectures			
Mar 16	Visual Imagery	8	<i>Mental Rotation</i>	Wednesday, March 14, Noon
Mar 21	Language	9	<i>Categorical Perception - Discrimination</i>	Monday, March 19, Noon
Mar 23			--	
Mar 28			--	
Mar 30	Thinking: problem solving, reasoning, making decisions	10,11	--	
Apr 4			--	
Apr 6			--	
Apr 11	Sleep and Cognition	--	--	
Finals Period	Exam 3 (30%) Chapters 8 – 11 + lectures			

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the

Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.