

Psychology 207 - Introduction to Cognitive Processes Spring 2005

Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-11:20am

Location: Math & Computers building 2066

Instructor: Dr. Myra Fernandes mafernan@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 10-11am or by appointment **Office:** PAS 4054

Teaching Assistants:

Chris Blais cblais@watarts.uwaterloo.ca **Office Hour:** Tues. 11:30-12:30pm PAS 4042
Tracee Francis tjfranci@watarts.uwaterloo.ca **Office Hour:** Thurs. 2-3pm PAS 4236

Required Course Text:

Galotti, K. M. (2004). Cognitive Psychology In and Out of the Laboratory, 3rd edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to some of the research and theory in the field of Cognitive Psychology. This branch of psychology examines how the mind works: how we perceive people, and events, how we pay attention, how and what we remember, how we mentally organize information, use language, and make decisions. Though we will only have a chance to touch on a few aspects of this vast research domain, the material will hopefully give you new insights into how your mind works.

Because of the large number of students in the class, I will spend most of class time lecturing. However, I do encourage discussion and questions to clarify material. I think the class will be much better if you participate by asking, and answering, questions! It is also extremely important that you read the assigned text material as well as attend lectures! Though there will be overlap between text and lectures, there will be material in the text that will not be covered in lectures and likewise, there will be some material in the lectures that is not in the text. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged.

Overview of Evaluation:

4 exams worth 25% each

- 3 will be during the course period
- 1 will be during the final exam period

Each exam

- is non-cumulative
- is 75 minutes (1 hour 15 min.) in length
- will be based on the material presented in the text and in lectures
- will be composed mostly of multiple choice, with some short answer questions

If you miss an exam during the term:

You will write a make-up exam, covering that material, during the final exam period. That is, in the first 75 minutes you would write exam 4 (like everyone else in the class), and in the last 75 minutes, you would write your make-up exam.

It is the student's responsibility to provide, in a timely manner, acceptable documentation to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim for missing an exam.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Academic Counselling Office 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. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered. For example, in the case of illness, the student must provide an official illness certificate on appropriate letterhead from their physician, which states that, due to medical reasons, it was impossible for the student to write the exam at the scheduled time. A note on a prescription pad is not an acceptable medical certificate.

Course Web page / Using UWACE:

What is UW-ACE?

It is a web-based course management system that enables instructors to manage course materials and interact easily and efficiently with their students. Here, I will post lecture notes online, along with the course syllabus. Course announcements, and answers to Frequently Asked Questions will also be posted on UWACE.

UWACE can also be used to administer surveys, and quizzes, send and receive course email, establish and monitor message boards and chat rooms, post marks to the grade-book, and track student progress.

How do I log into UW-ACE?

Type <http://www.uwace.uwaterloo.ca> and log on using your Quest/UWdir userid and password.

What should I do if I can't get logged into UW-ACE?

If you know that you should have access to a course using UW-ACE, but are having trouble logging in, please confirm that your QUEST/UWdir userid and password are correct. You can verify your userid and password by going to <http://ego.uwaterloo.ca/~uwwdir/UW-Passwd.html>. Please note that UW-ACE is case sensitive, so you must type your password with the appropriate upper and lower case letters. If you confirm that your userid and password are correct and still can not log in, please check with your instructor to ensure that you are on the class roster.

If you are on the class roster, you may require upper and lower case letters in your password and not be aware of it. You will need to change your password. Please go to <https://ego.uwaterloo.ca/~uwwdir/Passwd.html> and use the password specifications indicated on this page. In addition, you can reset your account by going to <http://ego.uwaterloo.ca/~uwwdir/UnLock.html> and supplying your faculty e-mail account password. If you are still encountering difficulties, please e-mail uwacehelp@ist.uwaterloo.ca stating your name, Uwuserid, student ID number and the course to which you wish access.

Can I forward my UW-ACE e-mail to another account?

Although the facility for forwarding your e-mail account to another account exists within UW-ACE, student accounts are automatically set back to userid@uwaterloo.ca (forwarding is removed) despite any intervention to have e-mail accounts forwarded. You will need to log into UW-ACE to retrieve your course e-mail.

Note for students with disabilities:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Note on avoidance of academic offences:

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Please also note the following link to the Arts Faculty Web page, "How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors" (<http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>)

About Your Instructor

In my research I aim to understand the processes involved in higher cognitive functions such as memory, attention and language. I use a combination of behavioural tests and neuro-imaging to identify the brain basis of these functions. In addition I study how the normal aging process affects cognition, particularly one's ability to carry out memory tasks concurrently with other tasks (dual-tasking). This work is used to test and refine current models of how memory encoding and retrieval operate.

Who can I see if I have questions about the course material?

See your teaching assistants if you have questions about material covered in the textbook.
See the instructor for questions about material covered in the lectures.

The following pages contain the Tentative Schedule for classes:

Topic	Text Reading	Date
Introduction/Overview History		Tuesday May 3rd
Methods & Paradigms	Ch. 1, p. 2-37	Thurs. May 5 th
Perceiving	Ch. 2, p. 40-69	Tuesday May 10 th
Disruptions of perception	Ch. 2, p. 70-84	Thurs. May 12 th
Models of Attention	Ch. 3, p. 86-104	Tuesday May 17 th
Selective Attention and Disorders of Attention	Ch. 3, p. 104-127	Thurs. May 19 th
Exam 1	Value = 25%	Tuesday May 24th
Sensory Memory	Ch. 4, p. 129-147	Thurs. May 26 th
Working Memory	Ch. 4, p. 147-159	Tuesday May 31 st
Long-term Memory	Ch. 5, p. 161-176	Thurs. June 2 nd

Topic	Text Reading	Date
Reconstructing Memory	Ch. 5, p. 176-191	Tuesday June 7 th
False memories & Amnesia	Ch. 5, p. 191-207	Thurs June 9 th
Semantic memory Schemata	Ch. 6, p. 210-241	Tuesday June 14 th
Exam 2 (non-cumulative)	Value = 25%	Thurs. June 16th
Concepts	Ch. 7, p. 244-255	Tuesday June 21 st
Categorization	Ch. 7, p. 255-270	Thurs. June 23 rd
Visual Imagery	Ch. 8, p. 273-291	Tuesday June 28 th
Mental Imagery	Ch. 8, p. 291-303	Thurs. June 30 th
Structure of Language	Ch. 9, p. 306-339	Tuesday July 5 th

Topic	Text Reading	Date
Language & Cognition	Ch. 9, p. 343-354	Thursday July 7 th
Exam 3 (non-cumulative)	Value = 25%	Tuesday July 12th
Reasoning	Ch. 10, p. 355-368	Thurs. July 14 th
Problem solving	Ch. 10, p. 368-389	Tuesday July 19 th
Decision making	Ch. 12, p. 427-449	Thursday July 21 st
Individual differences	Ch. 14, p. 505-518	Tuesday July 26 th
Gender differences	Ch. 14, p. 518-536	Thurs. July 28 th

Exam 4 (non-cumulative), has a value of 25%, and will take place during the Final Examination period in August; duration of this exam will be 75 minutes, as for the other exams.

*Note that this is a tentative lecture schedule and is subject to change. Sometimes we are able to move a bit faster than what is scheduled, and other times we move a bit slower than projected. As such, I cannot guarantee that these topics will be covered on exactly these days. However, I will point out any changes in the schedule during the class, and also on UWACE.

*Note that the scheduled dates for exams are unlikely to change.