



University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1

Psychology 207—Cognitive Processes Fall, 2009

Time: MWF 11:30 – 12:20

Place: AL116

Instructor: Jennifer Stolz, Ph.D.

Office: PAS 4056

Office hrs: M 2:00-4:00, and by appointment.

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Required Text:

Galotti, K. M., Fernandes, M. A., Fugelsang, J., & Stolz, J. A. (2010). *Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory: First Canadian Edition*. USA. Thomson Wadsworth.

Teaching Assistants

<u>Name</u>	<u>e-mail</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
Ester Moher	emoher@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 4044	T 2-3
Erin Maloney	eamalone@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 4267	W 2-3
Adam Palanica	apalanic@uwaterloo.ca		

Why are you here?

Psychology 207 should be a fun and interesting introduction to **some of the things** that cognitive psychologists do. I say "some of the things" because cognition is so broad that we will have time to merely touch upon only a few of the vast areas of interest. Although cognition is probably not what most of you thought of when you first became interested in psychology, it is arguably the most important sub-discipline in the field. Essentially everything you do (other than breathing and your heartbeat) involves cognition. How you perceive, read, remember, think, argue, speak, understand, learn, make judgments about events and people- all of these (and many other skills) involve cognition. So, think of this as your opportunity to build a little "owner's manual" that will help you to begin to understand your mind.

My responsibilities

My goal is to come to class well prepared. I will try to speak clearly and will do my best to provide you with a course in cognition that will interest and benefit you.

Your responsibilities

I do not require that you come to lectures. I do hope, however, that you choose to attend lectures and participate in your education. (Students who attend class regularly tend to do much better in the course than those who do not.) Additionally, I ask that if you do come to class, please respect your fellow students (and me) by refraining from talking to your friends during class. We are a very large group, so even just a “little bit of whispering” adds up very quickly. Therefore, if you have something to share with a friend, please wait until after class in order to do so. But, and this is very important: **If you have a question or comment for all of us, PLEASE DON'T BE SHY! RAISE YOUR HAND AND SPEAK UP!** Especially in large classes like this, students tend to be reticent about raising their hands. If you have a question, chances are lots of others do, too. If you don't understand something and don't ask about it, I won't find out about it until exam time. That won't make any of us very happy.

!!!!This is extra important!!!!

It is your responsibility to be in class for examinations. In case of illness, or some other type of misfortune, consult the undergraduate calendar—it explains how you are responsible for (1) **contacting me prior to the exam** and (2) **going to health services prior to the exam** to get a medical excuse. If you do miss an exam (and again, you should talk to me about this **prior** to the exam), your absence will only be excused if you bring a valid medical excuse from health services (or a death notice in the case of the death of a family member). In the event that those conditions are met, you will be permitted to write a make-up exam.

Computer Stuff

All undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts may obtain a free computer account on Waterloo Polaris. The account gives students free access to applications such as word processing, statistical and graphics packages, spreadsheets, and electronic mail, as well as the Internet. Students are charged for printing and can put money for printing on to their Arts Computing Resources Account at PAS 1080 using their WATCARD. Instructions for obtaining a Polaris account are available from the Arts Computing Office.

Getting in Touch with Us

The Psychology 207 course web page can be found in the UW-Angel system:

<https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/home.asp>

Here, you will find links to the syllabus, to the course notes (more on this later), to important announcements, and to FAQs. You will also see a link to the course email address. Because there are so many students in the class, we ask that you direct all material-related questions to the course email address, rather than to our personal addresses. This account will be checked daily. Directing material-related questions to this common account, rather than to our individual accounts, will help to ensure that all TAs and I know about important questions that you have. Additionally, commonly asked questions will be displayed in the FAQ section. Please use the instructor's and the TA's personal email addresses only to get in touch with us for emergencies, and to schedule appointments. Please be warned that in the past I have had 150-200 emails the night (or day) before an exam. It is not possible for me to answer that volume of mail in a short period of time. Therefore, try to ask your questions as early as possible, and direct them to the course email so that we have the opportunity to avoid answering the same question repeatedly.

Evaluations

There will be four in-class exams (Friday, October 2, Monday, October 26nd, Monday, November 16th, and Friday, December 4th). Each exam will be worth one-fourth of the final course grade. There will not be a final exam, and none of the exams will be cumulative.

Unfortunately, because of the large class size, all exams will have only multiple choice questions. All exams will be based on the material presented in the text and in lectures, with more weight typically given to lecture material. (I will discuss the exams in more detail when we get there....)

Can I Get Extra Credit?

Yes, indeed, you can! I will give students an opportunity to raise their final mark 4 points. In order to do this, students will participate in 4 hours of cognitive/cognitive neuroscience experiments. This will be handled by registering on the SONA system (more on this later). This is completely optional- you should only participate if you wish to do so. Please note that you can also choose to do only 1 hour of experimental participation to get 1 extra point, etc. In other words, you need not do all 4, even if you wish to get a little extra credit. **All extra credit experiments must be completed by Friday, December 4th.**

If you would like to earn extra credit without doing experiments, up to 4 points can be earned by reading a short cognitive psychology article and submitting a 1-2 page written summary. If you are interested in this option, please contact a course TA. **All extra credit paper submissions must be completed and turned in by Friday, December 4th.**

If you are interested in extra credit, please read the “Extra Credit Guidelines” file that is available on the course web site. Please note that no extra credit will be allowed after the deadlines listed above. That means students may not request an extension or opportunity to raise their final mark after this time.

Message from the Faculty of Arts Council

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:10, and on the web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

In addition, I would like to direct your attention to 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>)

Tentative* Lecture Schedule

Week of	Topic	Text Reading
9/14, 9/16, 9/18	Overview, Syllabus, Perception, Pattern Recognition	Chpts. 1, 2, 3
9/21, 9/23, 9/25	Paying Attention	Chpt. 4
9/28, 9/30, 10/2 10/2	Paying Attention EXAM 1	Chpt. 4
10/5, 10/7, 10/9 10/1	Memory Structures Exam 1(covers lectures & C 1-4)	Chpt. 5
10/12 , 10/14, 10/16 10/12	Memory Structures, Memory Processes Happy Thanksgiving!	Chpts. 5 & 6
10/19 10/21, 10/23	Memory Processes	Chpt. 6
10/26 , 10/28, 10/30 10/26	Concepts & Categorization Exam 2 (lectures & C 5 & 6)	Chpt. 7
11/2, 11/4, 11/6	Visual Imagery & Spatial Cog	Chpt. 8
11/9, 11/11, 11/13	Language	Chpt. 9
11/16 , 11/18, 11/20 11/16	Thinking, Problem Solving Exam 3 (lectures & C 7-9)	Chpt. 10
11/23, 11/25, 11/27	Making Decisions	Chpt. 11
11/30, 11/2, 12/4 12/4	Individual Differences Exam 4 (lectures & C 7-12)	Chpts. 12

***Note that this is a tentative lecture schedule. My experience is that each group has its own “feel.” Sometimes we are able to move a bit faster than what is scheduled, and other times we move a bit slower than what I have projected. Additionally, at some points I may wish to show a movie during class time, and that will require an adjustment to our lecture schedule. Therefore, I cannot guarantee that these topics will be covered on exactly these days. I will keep you up to date as to what unit we are covering, however, what you should be reading, and, most importantly, WHAT MATERIAL YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ON YOUR EXAM. You will never be tested on material that I have not covered in class, unless I have told you that you are responsible only for a particular section of the text that I have not covered. If you are ever unsure of these things, please ask.**