



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

Psychology 207—Cognitive Processes Fall, 2011

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.

Phone: 888-4567 ext. 35937

e-mail: jstolz@uwaterloo.ca

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>
Amandine Lassalle	alassall@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 2248	W 12:30-1:30
Adam Palanica	apalanic@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 2261	T 1-2
Jennifer Tomaszczyk	jtomaszc@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 4227	T 10-11

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.

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 (Monday, October 3rd, Monday, October 24th, Monday, November 14th, and Monday, December 5th). 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 Monday, December 5th.**

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 Monday, December 5th.**

If you are interested in extra credit for participating in studies, please visit this link as soon as possible:

<http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant/sonainfo/#SonaSignUp>

This link will tell you how to register for studies. Please note that neither I, nor the TAs, have any control over cancellation or re-scheduling of studies, and we will not be able to tell you whether you have received credit for a particular study. All that information is kept with the SONA administrator.

!!!!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 or a TA prior to the exam and (2) going to health services prior to the exam to get a medical excuse. If you miss an exam, your absence will be excused only if you have 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, we will be able to accommodate the absence.

The next part of text on this syllabus is information that must be provided verbatim to all students. Please read through this carefully.

The Official Version of the Course Outline

If there is a discrepancy between the hard copy outline (*i.e., if students were provided with a hard copy at the first class*) and the outline posted on ACE, the outline on ACE will be deemed the official version. Outlines on ACE may change as instructors develop a course, but they become final as of the first class meeting for the term.

Accommodations 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.

Concerns About the Course or Instructor (Informal Stage)

We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Dr. Colin Ellard) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Dr. Ellard's contact information is as follows:

Email: cellard@uwaterloo.ca
Ph 519-888- 4567 ext 36852

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. See Policy 70 and 71 below for further details.

Academic Integrity, Academic Offenses, Grievance, and Appeals

To protect course integrity, as well as to provide appropriate guidance to students, course outlines in the Faculty of Arts must include the following note on avoidance of academic offenses:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/> for more informaton.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>], to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about 'rules' for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#), <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#), <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#), <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Tentative* Lecture Schedule

Week of	Topic	Text Reading
9/12, 9/14, 9/16	Overview, Syllabus, Perception, Pattern Recognition	Chpts. 1, 2, 3
9/19, 9/21, 9/23	Paying Attention	Chpt. 4
9/26, 9/28, 9/30	Paying Attention	Chpt. 4
10/3, 10/5, 10/7 10/3	Memory Structures Exam 1(covers lectures & C 1-4)	Chpt. 5
10/10 , 10/12, 10/14 10/10	Memory Structures, Memory Processes Happy Thanksgiving!	Chpts. 5 & 6
10/17, 10/19, 10/21	Memory Processes	Chpt. 6
10/24 , 10/26, 10/28 10/24	Concepts & Categorization Exam 2 (lectures & C 5 & 6)	Chpt. 7
10/31, 11/2, 11/4	Visual Imagery & Spatial Cog	Chpt. 8
11/7, 11/9, 11/11	Language	Chpt. 9
11/14 , 11/16, 11/18 11/14	Thinking, Problem Solving Exam 3 (lectures & C 7-9)	Chpt. 10
11/21, 11/23, 11/25	Making Decisions	Chpt. 11
11/28, 11/30, 12/2	Individual Differences	Chpts. 12
12/5	Exam 4 (lectures & C 10-12)	

***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.**