

Psychology 207, Spring 2009
Cognitive Processes

Time: Tu, Th: 10:00 – 11:20
Instructor: Daniel Smilek, Ph.D.
Phone: (519) 888-4567 ext. 35365
UW ACE: 4305, Spring 2009, PSYCH.207.001.1.LEC, Cognitive Processes
Office hrs: Fri: 12:00 -1:00 pm, and by appointment.

Place: RCH 301
Office: PAS 4051
E-mail: dsmilek@uwaterloo.ca

Required Text:

Galotti, K. M., Fernandes, M. A., Fugelsang, J. & Stolz, J. A. (2009). *Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory, First Canadian Edition*. Toronto, Ontario: Nelson Education Ltd.

Teaching Assistants:

Roman Feiman rfeiman@uwaterloo.ca
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Course Description:

The main purpose of this course is to introduce you to research and theory in the field of Cognitive Psychology. Cognitive psychology is concerned with studying the mental processes involved in thinking, perceiving, remembering, deciding, attending, studying, etc. Though we will only have a chance to touch on a few parts 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 of clarification. 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 material in the lectures that is not in the text.

Evaluation:

Assignment	3%
Quiz	6%
Midterm 1	28%
Midterm 2	28%
Final Exam	35%

Participation in Experiments/Assignments 4% bonus

Assignment: The main purpose of the assignment is to get you thinking about how cognition applies to your everyday life. The assignment will be graded using a four point scale: 3 = Excellent; 2 = Well done; 1 = Completed; and 0 = Not completed.

Quiz: The quiz will consist of multiple choice questions similar in difficulty to those that will appear on the exams. The purpose of the quiz is to give you an idea of the difficulty of the exam questions as well as your understanding of the material up to the point of the quiz.

Midterms: The purpose of the two midterms is to test your understanding of the material in the course. The two midterm exams will not be cumulative. Each midterm will be 75 minutes in length and will be based on the material presented in the text and in lectures. Each midterm will be composed mostly of multiple choice questions, with some short answer/ questions and will be written either in the regular classroom or in rooms to be determined (information on test location will be posted on UW ACE, and during lectures).

Final Exam: The final exam will not be cumulative and will cover material covered after the second midterm exam. The final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. All exams will be based on the material presented in the text and in lectures, with more weight typically given to lecture material. The exams will be composed mostly of multiple choice questions and may include several short answer questions.

Bonus Participation in Experiments/Assignments

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Participation in research is one example of this. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to volunteer as research participants enabling them to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience.

Student participants may earn up to 4 percentage points toward their final mark in Psychology 207. This can be done in two ways. First, you may participate in studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation is worth 0.5 participation credits (percentage points) for each half-hour of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total points earned by each student at the end of the term. Second, if you do not wish to participate in research, you may choose an alternative approach to earning the same number of credits; this is explained below in "Alternative to participating in research."

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students can earn a "bonus" of 4% by participating in these experiments (i.e., the maximum possible final grade is 104%).

Please note that all Psychology studies have undergone prior ethics review and clearance through the Office of Research Ethics.

Educational focus of participation in research

To maximize the educational benefits of participating in research, students will receive feedback information following their participation in each study detailing the following elements:

- Purpose or objectives of the study
- Dependent and independent variables
- Expected results
- References for at least two related research articles
- Provisions to ensure confidentiality of data
- Contact information of the researcher should the student have further questions about the study
- Contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics should the student wish to learn more about the general ethical issues surrounding research with human participants, or specific questions or concerns about the study in which sh/he participated.

How do I sign up?

Once you are registered in the course, you will get an account on Sona (our web-based Study Sign-Up system) at <http://uwaterloo.sona-systems.com> and you will receive an email with your UserID and Password. IF YOU DO NOT RECIEVE this email, please report this to regadmin@uwaterloo.ca immediately. All previous Sona participant accounts have been deleted and new ones will be assigned.

- 1) Logon: User ID is your Quest ID (eg. j2smith)
 Password is your Student ID (eg 2001234)

*or whatever password you used last term

- 2) Read/Acknowledge the ORE “Human Subjects/Privacy Policy”
- 3) Complete the “Prescreen Questionnaire” (demographic info). There is no credit for this and you may decline if you wish however *completing it will increase your eligibility for studies*.
- 4) Go to “ “Studies” or “Study Sign-Up” page to view the list of available studies
- 5) After May 13 you can click on the titles of all other studies for study details
- 6) Click on the option to “View Timeslots” and/or “Participate”
- 7) You’ll receive a confirmation email and a reminder the day before the study.
- 8) Upon completion of the study you are granted your Study Credit and given feedback about the study hypothesis, design and predictions.

When should I sign up?

Right away, the sooner the better!!! The On-line study “Mass Testing Survey S09” (one full credit) will only be offered for the month of May and you *should do this survey as soon as possible*. Researchers often select participants based on their responses and doing this survey increases your eligibility for other studies. Note that you can only do this survey if you have completed the Prescreen questionnaire. Doing both Prescreen Questionnaire and Mass Testing Survey helps you (by providing more qualifying studies and it helps researchers (by identifying more qualified participants) so we would greatly appreciate it if you would do both.

Are there any restrictions to the studies I can sign up for?

Yes ... i) the study must be eligible for a credit in this class (as noted in the Eligibility Requirements) ii) **only 2 of your 4 credits** can be for **On-line** studies and iii) you should try to spread your participation out over the term (**1-2 credits per month** is recommended). If you wait until July to earn most/all of your credits there will not be enough studies available. The last day to participate for credit is July 28 but you can participate for pay until August 14.

Showing up for studies!

It is very important that you attend the studies that you have signed up for. More information about our expectations regarding your attendance will be provided shortly.

Where can I get more information, instructions, help with login problems etc?

REG website: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant>

REG Coordinator: regadmin@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

Alternative to participating in research

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative to participation in research, students may submit short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of journal articles relevant to the course material. Each review article counts as one percentage point. You should contact your TA to get approval before writing the review. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The review must:

- **Be submitted before July 28. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**
- Be typed

- Fully identify the title, author(s), source and date of the article. A copy of the article must be attached.
- Identify the psychological concepts in the article and indicate the pages in the textbook that are applicable. Critically evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article. If inappropriate or incorrect, identify the error and its implications for the validity of the article. You may find, for example, misleading headings, faulty research procedures, alternative explanations that are ignored, failures to distinguish factual findings from opinions, faulty statements of cause-effect relations, errors in reasoning, etc. Provide examples whenever possible.
- Clearly evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article.
- Keep a copy of your review in the unlikely event we misplace the original.

Students may complete any combination of a) participation in research or b) article review up to a total of 4% points.

Other Notes

UW ACE

UW ACE is a web-based course management system that enables instructors to interact easily and efficiently with their students. **Here, I will post lecture notes, grades, and the course syllabus. Course announcements, and answers to Frequently Asked Questions will also be posted on UW ACE.** To log into UW ACE, type <http://www.uwace.uwaterloo.ca> in your internet browser and log on using your Quest/UWdir userid and password. 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. 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 cannot log in, please check with your Teaching Assistants to ensure that you are on the class roster. If you continue to encounter difficulties, please e-mail uwacehelp@ist.uwaterloo.ca stating your name, Uwuserid, student ID number and the course to which you wish access. Finally, please note that if there is a discrepancy between the hard copy of the syllabus and the syllabus posted on UW ACE, the outline on UW ACE will be deemed the official version.

Policy Regarding Illness

Students are entitled to a rescheduling of tests or an extension of deadlines for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons. Students are also entitled to rescheduling tests based on religious grounds. However, it is the student's responsibility to (1) inform the instructor prior to the due date, (2) arrange a timely makeup, and (3) provide acceptable documentation to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim.

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 Counseling 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 UW Verification of Illness form* completed by the physician.

http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/VERIFICATION%20OF%20ILLNESS.html

A note on a prescription pad is not an acceptable medical certificate.

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

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.

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>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, 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 professor, 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>

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>

For further advice from the Faculty of Arts on the avoidance of academic offenses, see the following website: http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Tentative* Lecture Schedule

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
May 5, 7	Overview, Approaches, Perception	Chpts. 1 & 3
May 12, 14	Perception	Chpt. 3
May 19, 21 May 19	Attention I Quiz	Chpt. 4
May 26, 28 May 26	Attention II Assignment Due	Chpt. 4
June 2, 4 June 2	Memory I Midterm 1	Chpt. 5
June 9,11	Memory II	Chpt. 6
June 16, 18	Memory III	Chpt. 6
June 23, 25	Knowledge I	Chpt. 7
June 30, July 2 June 30	Knowledge II Midterm 2	Chpt. 7
July 7, 9	Visual Imagery	Chpt. 8
July 14, 16	Reading/ Special Topics	Chpt. 9
July 21, 23	Thinking and Problem Solving	Chpt. 10
July 28	Making Decisions	Chpt. 11
TBA	Final Exam	

***Note that this is a tentative lecture schedule and is subject to change. The amount of class time that is spent on each of the topics listed above depends in part on class interest. If students are interested in a particular topic then it may be expanded at the expense of other topics. Therefore, I reserve the right to make changes as necessary. However, I will point out all changes in class and, in particular, what information you will be expected to know for exams.**