

Psychology 207, Spring 2011
Cognitive Processes

Time: T, Th: 10:00 – 11:20
Instructor: Daniel Smilek, Ph.D.
E-mail: dsmilek@uwaterloo.ca (please contact me by using this email address!)
UW ACE: 4246, Spring 2011, PSYCH.207.001.1.LEC, Cognitive Processes
Office hrs: Th: 11:30 -12:30 pm, and by appointment.

Place: DC 1350
Office: PAS 4051

Required Text:

Bejafield, J. G., Smilek, D., & Kingstone, A. (2010). *Cognition (Fourth Edition)*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press Canada.

Teaching Assistants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office Number</u>	<u>Email</u>
Vedran Dzebic	PAS 2254	vdzebic@uwaterloo.ca
Christie Haskell	PAS 4248	crmhaske@uwaterloo.ca
Justin Deonarine	PAS 4211	jdeonari@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description:

The primary aim of this course is to expose you to the wonderful and exciting field of cognitive psychology. Cognitive psychology is concerned with studying the processes involved in thinking, perceiving, remembering, deciding, attending, studying, etc. The course will cover the main cognitive theories as well as a selection of empirical research studies in the field. Throughout the course I will try to include class demonstrations that will give you a new perspective on how the mind works.

I invite you to participate in class by asking or answering questions and offering relevant comments. Because the class is so large, I will spend most of the time lecturing. However, some class discussion will definitely make our class more informative and interesting.

Finally, I can't stress how important it is for you to read the assigned text material as well as attend all lectures! While there will be some 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. Ultimately, you will be responsible for knowing both text and lecture material.

Evaluation:

Test #1	25%
Test #2	25%
Test #3	25%
Test #4	21%
Participation in Experiments	4%

Tests: The purpose of the tests is to evaluate your understanding of the material in the course. The tests will not be cumulative. You will be given 75 minutes to complete each test. The tests will be based on the material presented in the text and in lectures. Each test will be composed mostly of multiple choice questions together with some short answer questions and will be written in the regular classroom.

Participation in Experiments: See section entitled “Research Experience Marks Information and Guidelines” below.

Research Experience Marks Information and Guidelines

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Research participation is one example of this, article review is another. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to earn grades while gaining research experience.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn **up to 4% of the final mark** in this course through research experience (i.e., the course work will make up 96% of your final mark and research experience will make up the other 4% for a maximum grade of 100%).

The two options for earning research experience grades (participation in research and article review) are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options to earn research experience marks.

Option 1: Participation in Psychology Research

Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in lab and/or online (web-based) studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation enables students to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience. Please be assured 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 s/he participated.

Participation is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each half-hour of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term.

Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed using the [SONA](#) online system. All students enrolled in this course have been set up with a SONA account. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you get an early start on your studies. For detailed instructions on [when and how access your SONA account](#) and for a list of [important dates and deadlines](#) please, as soon as possible, click on:

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

**** Please do not ask the Course Instructor or REG Coordinator for information unless you have first thoroughly read the information provided on this website. ****

More information about the REG program is available at:

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

Option 2: Article Review as an alternative to participation in research

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to gain research experience by writing short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course. The course instructor will specify a suitable source of articles for this course (i.e., scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, other printed media). *You must contact your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review.* Each review article counts as one percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- **Be submitted before the last lecture. 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.

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.

Policy Regarding Illness

Students who are requesting accommodation for course requirements (assignments, midterm tests, final exams, etc.) due to illness should do the following:

- seek medical treatment as soon as possible and obtain a completed UW Verification of Illness Form:
http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html
- submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.
- (preferably) inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.

In the case of a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam which will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course.

In the case of a missed assignment deadline or midterm test, the instructor will either:

1. waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or
2. provide an extension.

In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.

Students who are experiencing extenuating circumstances should also inform their academic advisors regarding their personal difficulties.

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 UW-ACE, the outline on UW-ACE will be deemed the official version. Outlines on UW-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 information.]

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), <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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm), 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), <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm> (Include also the following paragraph if you will be using Turnitin*):

in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

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

Document Retention:

Graded tests, quizzes and assignments for this course will be kept in storage in the Psychology Department for a maximum of 16 months after the final grades have been submitted to the Registrar's Office. After that time, these documents will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

Tentative* Lecture Schedule

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
May 3, 5	Introduction, Cognitive Neuroscience	Chpts. 1 & 2
May 10, 12	Perception	Chpt. 3
May 17	Attention	Chpt. 4
May 19	Test #1	
May 24, 26	Attention	Chpt. 4
May 31, June 2	Memory Traces	Chpt. 5
June 7,9	Memory Schemas	Chpt 6
June 14	Test #2	
June 16	Imagery	Chpt. 7
June 21, 23	Concepts	Chpt. 8
June 28, 30	Language	Chpt. 9
July 5	Test #3	
July 7	Problem-Solving	Chpt. 10
July 12, 14	Judgment and Choice	Chpt. 11
July 19	Applied Cognition	Chpt. 12
July 21	Test #4	

*** Please note that the details of this schedule might change depending on class interest and possible class interruption due to unexpected events. I will announce any changes either in class on UW ACE so make sure you are regularly attending class and checking UW ACE.**