

Psychology 207, Winter 2005 Introduction to Cognitive Processes

Time: T, Th: 8:30 – 9:50

Instructor: Daniel Smilek, Ph.D.

Phone: (519) 888-4567 ext. 5365

Course Website:

Office hrs: Th: 10:00-12:00, and by appointment.

Place: AL 116

Office: PAS 4051

E-mail: dsmilek@uwaterloo.ca

Required Text:

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

Teaching Assistants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>e-mail</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
Marty Lochner	mlochner@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 4044	T: 11:00-12:00
Katrina Goreham	TBA	TBA	TBA
Karl Borgmann	TBA	TBA	TBA
Kathleen Hourihan	klhourih@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 4043	M: 11:00-12:00
Grace Lau	TBA	TBA	TBA

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:

You will be evaluated on the basis of two assignments (the details of which will be clarified at the appropriate time in the course), one quiz, two midterms and a final exam. The overall grade will be based on the following weightings of the components: Assignment 1 = 3%, Assignment 2 = 3%, Quiz = 6%, Midterm Exam 1 = 25%, Midterm Exam 2 = 25%, Final Exam = 38%.

The main purpose of the two assignments is to get you thinking about how various topics in cognition apply to your everyday life. The two assignments will be graded using a four point scale: 3 = Excellent, 2 = Well done; 1 = Completed; and 0 = Not completed. 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. The purpose of the two midterms and the final exam is to test your understanding of the

material in the course. The two midterm exams will not be cumulative. The final exam will be cumulative with relatively more questions based on the 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 but will include several short answer questions.

A note on computers:

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.

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 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.

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 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.

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>)

Tentative* Lecture Schedule:

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
Jan 4, 6	Overview, Syllabus, Approaches	Chpt. 1
Jan 11, 13 Jan 13	Perception Assignment 1 Due	Chpt. 2
Jan 18, 20 Jan 18	Attention I Quiz	Chpt. 3
Jan 25, 27	Attention II / Consciousness	Chpt. 3
Feb 1, 3 Feb 1	Memory I Midterm 1	Chpt. 4
Feb 8, 10 Feb 10	Memory II Assignment 2 Due	Chpt. 5
Feb 15, 17	Memory III	Chpts. 5 & 6
Feb 22, 24	Reading Week (Enjoy!)	
Mar 1, 3 Mar 1	Knowledge I Midterm 2	Chpts. 6 & 7
Mar 8, 10	Knowledge II	Chpt. 7
Mar 15, 17	Visual Imagery	Chpt. 8
Mar 22, 24	Reading/ Special Topics	Chpt. 9
Mar 29, 31	Reasoning/ Decision Making	Chpts. 11 & 12
Apr 5	Lectures End	
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.**