

California State University, San Marcos – Spring 2016 Syllabus PSYC 362: Cognitive Processes Section 01 - CRN 20995 – Tu/Th 10:30am – 11:45am – SBSB 3127 Website: http://courses.csusm.edu/psyc362md Prerequisites: PSYC100 must be completed with a grade of "C" (2.0) or higher.	Dr. Michael Diehr mdiehr@csusm.edu Phone: 760-566-6842 Office Hours: SBSB 3234 Tu/Th: 12pm-12:50pm
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SCHEDULE: *Subject to change - check your CSUSM email and the course website regularly for updates.*

Wk	Dates	Topic	Reading *	CogLab **	Exam/Assignment
1	Tu Jan 26	Introduction & History	Ch 1		
	Th Jan 28	Introduction & History	Ch 1		
2	Tu Feb 02	Introduction & History	Ch 1	1 Partial Report	Quiz 1
	Th Feb 04	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch 2 *		
3	Tu Feb 09	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch 2 *		
	Th Feb 11	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch 2	2 Brain Asymmetry	Quiz 2
4	Tu Feb 16	Perception: Sensory Memory	Ch 3 *		
	Th Feb 18	Perception: Pattern Recog.	Ch 3 *		
5	Tu Feb 23	Perception: Object Recog.	Ch 3 *	3 Visual Search	Quiz 3
	Th Feb 25	Attention	Ch 4		
6	Tu Mar 01	Attention	Ch 4		
	Th Mar 03	Attention	Ch 4	4 Stroop Effect	Quiz 4
7	Tu Mar 08	Midterm Exam			Midterm Exam
	Th Mar 10	Short Term Memory	Ch 5		
8	Tu Mar 15	Short Term Memory	Ch 5		
	Th Mar 17	Short Term Memory	Ch 5	5 Mental Rotation	Quiz 5
9	Tu Mar 22	SPRING BREAK			
	Th Mar 24	SPRING BREAK			
10	Tu Mar 29	Episodic Memory	Ch 6		Term Paper Signups
	Th Mar 31	HOLIDAY			
11	Tu Apr 05	Episodic Memory	Ch 6		
	Th Apr 07	Episodic Memory	Ch 6	6 Encoding Spec.	Quiz 6
12	Tu Apr 12	APA Style Lecture			Review Term Paper
	Th Apr 14	Semantic Memory	Ch 7	Possible Strike Dates – Class may be canceled.	
13	Tu Apr 19	Semantic Memory	Ch 7		
	Th Apr 21	Writing Workshop	Ch 7		Term Paper Due (11pm online)
14	Tu Apr 26	Semantic Memory	Ch 7	7 Prototypes	Quiz 7
	Th Apr 28	Memory Distortion	Ch 8 *		
15	Tu May 03	Memory Distortion	Ch 8 *		
	Th May 05	Memory Distortion	Ch 8 *		
16	Tu May 10	Memory Distortion	Ch 8 *	8 False Memory	Quiz 8
	Th May 12	Synthesis / Review for Final			
17	Th May 19	Final Exam Thursday 9:15am-11:15am			<i>Topics: see study guide</i>

(*) Textbook Chapters: *Unless otherwise specified, read the entire chapter.*

Chapter 2: Also read Sacks, O. (1970) Chapter 1 (on electronic reserve)

Chapter 3: Skip Auditory Perception (p 95-99). Also read Sacks, O. (1970) Chapter 8.

Chapter 8: Also read Schacter, D. (2000), *The Seven Sins of Memory*.

(**) CogLab Exercises: *Please read the entire lab as well as the original research article (on electronic reserve)*

Required Text: Ashcraft & Radvansky (2006). *Cognition*. 6th Edition. New York: Pearson. ISBN: 9780205985807.

Required Materials: Frances & Neath (2015). *CogLab 5 Instant Access Code*. Cengage. ISBN 9781285461083

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Overview of the Course

Cognitive Psychology is the sub-field of Experimental Psychology that examines how the human mind processes information. Typical areas of research include Perception, Sensation, Learning, Memory, Problem Solving and Reasoning. The field is relatively young and is generally considered to have truly blossomed with the "Cognitive Revolution" in the 1950s as the creation of the digital computer provided new models of information processing as well as new tools with which to perform research.

Since many of the mechanisms (a.k.a. Cognitive Processes) by which the human brain manipulates information are not directly observable, the field relies heavily on indirect evidence. Therefore, we will focus heavily on the scientific method – model creation and hypothesis building, creation of testable predictions, and consideration and refutation of alternate theories to explain results. Because experimental manipulations in humans are very limited, we pay particular attention to cognitive processes and function in non-normal situations (such as brain disease or damage).

This is a 3-unit course with an expectation that students will spend 6 to 9 additional hours weekly on coursework.

Components & Grading

The class will include these major components:

Item	Points
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Term Paper	100
Quizzes (8 @ 10 points each)	80
CogLab (8 @ 10 points each)	80
Attendance & Participation	40
Make-up assignment (optional, 10 points)	
Total	500

Quizzes and Exams will be multiple-choice. Quizzes may include information that has not yet been presented in lectures: please do all reading before class.

The entire course is graded on a curve, and the cutoff for an A is typically around 88%. Plus and Minus grades (e.g. A-, B+) are given. Feedback on your current point total and estimated grade will be provided regularly. There will be one optional make-up assignment worth 10 points.

Assignments

CogLab

For the CogLab activity you will self-administer some of the famous cognitive psychology experiments using a website. Serving as a research subject is perhaps the best way to understand the process of introspection and meta-cognition and generate theories about how your own mind works.

CogLab scoring is 10 points for completed on-time (which means before the start of class on the date due). Late completions will be penalized 1 point for each day late.

Please read the text in the CogLab book, materials on the website, *as well as the entire original research paper* (provided on electronic reserve). The Quiz on the date the CogLab is due will include questions about these materials.

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Term Paper

A ten page (2500 word) APA-format research paper will be assigned in order to meet the CSUSM Writing Requirement for this course. Assignment details will be provided later.

Resources

Website: <http://courses.csusm.edu/psyc362md>

Email: Checking your CSUSM email regularly is a requirement.

Office Hours: See above. No need to make an appointment, just stop by.

Phone: *During office hours I will answer. Leave voicemail if necessary. (Email is better).*

Policy

Attendance

Attendance and class participation are expected and count towards your grade: Every student may have up to two unexcused absences without penalty. Starting with the 3rd unexcused absence there will be a 10 point penalty per absence.

Excused Absences

Death, serious illness or injury to student or immediate family member, with adequate documentation (doctor's note, police report, or note from the Dean's office) may be considered excused at instructor's discretion. Pre-arranged absences for religious, government or university-sanctioned reasons must be arranged with instructor *at least one week in advance*. When an absence is excused, instructor will either accept late work without penalty or allow an alternative assignment.

Late Assignments

Instructor may, in some circumstances, accept late work. Late assignments will incur a one-letter-grade deduction per missed class session. If you arrive late, *while a quiz is in progress*, you may be allowed to take the quiz in the time remaining, but will incur a one-point (10%) penalty.

Students with Disabilities

In compliance with federal ADA laws: If you have a need for any in-class accommodations, special test-taking arrangements, or help accessing any class materials because of a verified physical, cognitive, or perceptual limitation, please talk to the disabled students office first then contact me during the first two weeks of class.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the words or ideas of others as your own) or falsification of data will result in failure of the assignment, possible failure of the course, and notification of the offense to the University. Students are expected to abide by the CSUSM Student Academic Honesty Policy; the instructor will abide by the procedures for reporting violations. Details:

http://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/academic_honesty.html Please refer to the APA Style Manual for instructions on how to cite your sources.

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Course Catalog Description

Theoretical and research approaches to the study of thinking, problem-solving, language, concept learning, decision making and judgment, cognitive development, and cognitive structure. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) – Psychology 362

For Psychology Majors:

PSLO 1: Describe the major concepts theories, empirical findings, historical trends in psychology and their application to behavioral and mental processes. PSLO 2: Describe the scientific approach to psychology and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, quantitative analysis, interpretation and reporting in APA format. PSLO 3: Demonstrate the ability to independently locate, identify and critically evaluate scholarly literature in the discipline of psychology.

For CHAD Majors:

PSLO 2: Locate, interpret and critically evaluate scholarly articles in psychology. PSLO 6: Demonstrate effective written communication skills in a variety of formats and for a variety of audiences, using APA format when appropriate.

Specific Targets

To meet these PSLOs: students will be able to describe the recent history of cognitive psychology as related to societal and technological changes, explain the theoretical disagreements and new methods used in the cognitive sciences, read and understand classic research in the field, and write an APA-format paper comparing the classic research with the latest findings from modern research they have found.

End of Syllabus.