PSY B57S - L01 Memory and Cognition

Spring 1995

Instructor: Dr. Stuart Grant
Office: S-561
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 - 3:30 in S-561

Teaching Assistant: Katrin Szymanski
Office & Office Hours: To be announced

Class meetings: Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:00 & Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 in S309
Textbook: *Cognition: Theory and Applications* (3rd edition), by Stephen K. Reed

This course presents a sampling of the research that seeks to understand the operations underlying the human mind. Like most cognitive psychologists, we will adopt the information processing approach. We will follow the course of information in the cognitive system, from the moment where sensation first occurs, to the point where overt motor actions take place. The goal is to understand how the cognitive system encodes, elaborates, stores, retrieves, and acts upon information. As the course proceeds, you will come to appreciate that cognitive psychology is very much an enterprise that is "under construction." For every topic studied there are competing theories that offer different explanations. Hopefully this frustrating, yet exciting state of affairs will not only engage your curiosity, but also give you practice at evaluating competing theories and at using them to understand the world.

The Exams

The term test will take place January 31, during class. It will consist of multiple choice questions and short answers, covering material from the lectures and the text. This test will be worth 30% of your final grade.

The final exam will take place during the final examination period, and it will also cover material from the lectures and the text. The exam will concentrate on the material covered since the term test, but it will necessarily draw on concepts from the first part of the course. The final exam will be worth 50% of your final grade.

The Written Assignment

There is a written assignment in this course. Before the first exam you will be given a journal article. You assignment is to summarize it in two pages and, using another two pages, propose an experiment to extend the findings of the journal article. You **do not** actually carry out the experiment.

Each page should be double spaced, with 1 inch margins, and use a type font at least as large as 12 pitch elite. The paper is due at the beginning of class, Thursday, April 6. You are advised to make a photocopy of your paper before turning it in, to guard against loss. If your paper gets lost during the grading process, we will simply ask for your spare copy. The assignment will be worth

20% of your final grade. Additional information on this assignment will be available toward the middle of the course.

A final note:

Make sure that you read all of the assigned material. Not all of the material from the text will be covered in the lectures. Likewise, not all of the lecture material is taken from the text, so you should try not to miss the lectures. This course packs a large amount of material into a brief period, so do your best to keep up on the reading. Falling behind can be disastrous.

Meeting	Topic	Reading
Week 1 Jan 3 & 5	Introduction to the course Historical background	Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 10 & 12	Pattern recognition and the sensory store	Chapter 2
Week 3 Jan 17 & 19	The sensory store and attention	Chapter 3
Week 4 Jan 24 & 26	Attention and automaticity	Chapter 4
Week 5 Jan 31 & Feb 2	**Term Test** Short term memory	Chapter 5
Week 6 Feb 7 & 9	Atkinson & Shiffrin's view of long term memory Levels of Processing and T.A.P.	Chapter 6
Week 7 Feb 21 & 23	Visual Images Theory of Signal Detection	Chapter 7
Week 8 Feb 28 & March 2	Semantic organization in long term memory	Chapter 9
Week 9 March 7 & 9	Categorization	Chapter 8
Week 10 March 14 & 16	Language	Chapter 10
Week 11 March 21 & 23	Comprehension and memory of text	Chapter 11
Week 12 March 28 & 30	Problem solving	Chapter 12
Week 13 April 4 & 6	Human Factors and Connectionism **Written assignment due**	Chapter 14