

**PSYCHOLOGY B57**

Winter 2004

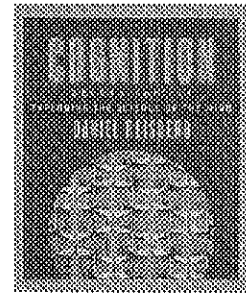
*Class:* Mon 3:00-5:00 Pavilion  
Wed 4:00-5:00 HW-216

*Professor:* George Cree  
*Office:* S-559  
*Phone:* 416-287-7439  
*Office hours:* One hour after class,  
Tue. 10:00-12:00 PM,  
or by appointment

*Course TA:* Marty Niewiadomski  
*Web:* <http://psych.utoronto.ca/~martin/>  
*Office hours:* TBA (if required)

*Website:* intranet (link available from <http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/~gcree/>)

*Textbook:* *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind*  
**(2nd edition)**  
by Daniel Reisberg



**Course Overview**

This course is designed to survey the research in experimental psychology relevant to how we make sense of the world around us. This will be accomplished in the framework of modern cognitive psychology—the information processing approach to memory and thought. The plan is to work gradually through the processing system, beginning with how we extract information from the environment, continuing through how we learn and remember information, then examining how knowledge is organized, and concluding with how we make intelligent use of information in such complex tasks as decision making and problem solving. Along the way, research on cognitive disorders and practical issues will be raised.

Although the focus will be on the role of the memory system in information processing, topics will also include attention, imagery, language, categorization and creativity, among others. It is probably impossible to construct an overarching theory of cognition at this time, but the goal is to provide a broad understanding of human thought, and an appreciation of the domain of cognition. Toward that end, the role of controlled, laboratory-based psychological experimentation will be emphasized as one way to answer questions about the operation of mind.

## Course Evaluation

The lectures and textbook are intended to complement each other, but they are far from perfectly overlapping. Because topics will be covered in lectures that are not included in the text (and vice versa), it is a poor idea to miss any lectures. There is a good deal of material to cover, so falling behind is not recommended. It is for this reason that the syllabus suggests when to read each chapter in the text. Keeping up with readings has the added advantage of allowing you to clarify as you go anything that you do not understand.

There are two evaluative mechanisms in this course:

1. **First Exam** – Following Reading Week, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a test covering the first 6 weeks of lectures and the corresponding book chapters (Chapters 1-7). There will be 60 multiple-choice questions (each with four alternatives). The exam is designed as a 1.5 hour test, but will be given in a 2-hour time slot to remove time pressure. All questions will have an equal weight and there will be no penalty for guessing, so do not leave blanks. This exam will be worth **40%** of the final grade. **This exam will take place in class.**
2. **Second Exam** – The second exam will cover the second 6 weeks of lectures and the corresponding book chapters (Chapters 8-15). This exam will be *non-cumulative*, and will have a format identical to the first exam. It will be worth **60%** of the final grade. **This exam will take place on a yet-to-be-determined date during the final exam period in April.**

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week	Monday (1-4)	Tuesday (1-5)	Wednesday (1-5)	Readings
Jan 5-9	Introduction	Introduction	What is Cog. Psych.?	Chapters 1-2
Jan 12-16	Object Recognition	Object Recognition	Object Recognition	Chapter 3
Jan 19-23	Attention	Attention	Attention	Chapter 4
Jan 26-30	Working Memory	Working Memory	Working Memory	Chapter 5
Feb 2-6	Long Term Memory	Long Term Memory	Long Term Memory	Chapter 6
Feb 9-13	Long Term Memory	Long Term Memory	Long Term Memory	Chapter 7
Feb 16-20	Reading Week	Reading Week	Reading Week	
Feb 23-27	Semantic Memory	Semantic Memory	Concepts and Categories	Chapter 8
Mar 1-5	Midterm	Midterm	Concepts and Categories	Chapter 9
Mar 8-12	Language	Language	Language	Chapter 10
Mar 15-19	Visual Knowledge	Visual Knowledge	Visual Knowledge	Chapter 11
Mar 22-26	Deductive Reasoning	Inductive Reasoning	Problem Solving	Chapter 12-13
Mar 29 - Apr 2	Expertise	Creativity	Consciousness	Chapter 14-15