

PSYB57: Introduction to Memory and Cognition

Winter 2006

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Office hours: Tue. 11:00-12:00, Fri. 2:00-3:00, or by appointment.
Web page: <http://www.utoronto.ca/~gcree>

Class Times: Monday: 3-5 AA-112
Friday: 1-2 AA-112

Course Website: UTSC Intranet (<http://intranet.utoronto.ca>)
Look here for lecture notes, assignments, grades, and the discussion board.

Course Blog: <http://spaces.msn.com/members/psyb57>
Look here for important announcements and links to related information.

Textbook:

Goldstein, B. (2005). Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience (with CogLab Online and Concept Charts Booklet), 1st Edition. ISBN: 0534577261.



Course Objectives:

1. To provide students with a solid understanding of the terminology, research methods, classic studies, and current issues in the study of cognitive psychology.
2. To provide an introduction to laboratory methods in cognitive psychology, including experiment design, implementation issues, data analysis, and interpretation of results.
3. To provide practice in reading and interpreting cognitive psychology research articles.
4. To be sure students understand the links between the abstract methods of cognitive psychology, the mental constructs (representations and processes) tested in experiments, and how it all relates to concrete, real world behaviour.

Pre-requisites: [PSYA01 & PSYA02] or PSYA01Y. Note: if you do not have these prerequisites, and you require them for your degree, drop this course now! You will not be allowed to take them later if PSYB57 appears on your transcript, and this will have serious consequences for your ability to graduate.

Co-requisite: PSYB07 (or equivalent). If you do not have PSYB07, or are not taking it now, and it is part of your program requirements, you will need to get a note from me saying that you are allowed to take this course, and that you will take PSYB07 at a later date. I will make announcements in class regarding how to get this note. Note: The psychology faculty recently voted to remove PSYB07 as a co-requisite for PSYB57 because we feel that it is not necessary as background for this course. This will take effect in the 2006-2007 academic year.

Schedule of Topics, Assignments, and Exams:

Week	Dates	Textbook Chapters	CogLab Experiments
Week 1	Jan 9-13	Chpt 1: Intro to Cog Psych	Stroop Effect Link Word
Week 2	Jan 16-20	Chpt 2: Cognition and the Brain	Brain Asymmetry
Week 3	Jan 23-27	Chpt 3: Perception	Visual Search Apparent Motion Mapping the Blind Spot Metacontrast Masking Muller-Lyer Illusion Signal Detection
Week 4	Jan 30-Feb 3	Chpt 4: Attention	Spatial Cueing Attentional Blink Simon Effect
Week 5	Feb 6-10	Chpt 5: Working Memory	Partial Report Serial Position Memory Span Brown-Peterson Phonological Similarity Irrelevant Speech Effect Modality Effect Operation Span Position Error Sternberg Search Suffix Effect
Week 6	Feb 13-17	Chpt 6: Long Term Memory: Basics	Implicit Learning Levels of Processing Encoding Specificity
	Feb. 17 th	1 st writing assignment due Feb. 17, 11:59 pm	
	Feb 20-24	--- Reading Week ---	
		--- Midterm exam date to be announced. --- (Hopefully between Feb. 27 th – Mar. 10 th)	
Week 7	Feb 27-Mar 3	Chpt 7: Every Day Memory & Errors	Remember/Know False Memory Forgot it all Along
Week 8	Mar 6-10	Chpt 8: Knowledge	Prototypes Lexical Decision Absolute Identification
Week 9	Mar 13-17	Chpt 9: Visual Memory	Mental Rotation
Week 10	Mar 20-24	Chpt 10: Language	Word Superiority Categorical Perception 1 Categorical Perception 2
Week 11	Mar 27-31	Chpt 11: Problem Solving	
Week 12	Apr 3-7	Chpt 12: Reasoning & Decision Making	Wason Selection Task Typical Reasoning Risky Decisions Monty Hall
	Apr. 7 th	2 nd writing assignment due Apr. 7, 11:59 pm	
	Apr. 7 th	All CogLab experiments listed in the next column must be completed by Apr. 7, 11:59 pm	
	Apr 17-May 2	--- Final exam date to be announced. ---	

Course Evaluation

There are four evaluative mechanisms in this course:

Midterm Exam: 40%

The first test will cover the first 6 chapters of the textbook, the accompanying lectures, and all CogLab experiments assigned over the first 6 weeks (everything listed in the 4th column titled "CogLab Experiments" on the previous page). There will be 100 multiple-choice questions. The test will be scheduled for 2 hours. This test will be worth 40% of the final grade.

Final Exam: 40%

The second test will cover the last 6 chapters of the textbook, the accompanying lectures, and all CogLab experiments assigned over the last 6 weeks (everything listed in the 4th column titled "CogLab Experiments" on the previous page). There will be 100 multiple-choice questions. The test will be scheduled for 2 hours, during the final exam period. This test will be worth 40% of the final grade. This test will be non-cumulative.

CogLab Experiments: 10%

Each chapter (except Chpt 11) has a set of accompanying CogLab experiments (listed in the table above). You are required to complete all of the experiments by April 7th, 11:59 pm. There are 40 experiments in total. Each is worth 0.25% of your final mark.

It is highly recommended that you try to complete the experiments *before* the week we cover them in class. This will ensure three things. First, you will have a better understanding of the topics covered in the lectures. Second, you will keep up to date with the experiments, and won't be left trying to complete them all right before the final exam, when you are busy trying to complete the requirements of other courses. Third, it provides real data for us to discuss in class.

Writing Assignments: 10%

You will be required to complete 2 writing assignments. The due dates are listed in the table above. They will be submitted online using the Reading, Writing, and Thinking Portal. Each will be worth 5% of your final mark. More information will be provided on the course Intranet website as it becomes available.

Policies on missed and late exams and assignments

The only reasons considered valid for missing an exam are (1) you are not in an appropriate physical condition to write an exam, as verified by a medical professional, or (2) you are not in the appropriate mental condition to write an exam, as verified by a medical or counseling professional, or (3) it is a University of Toronto recognized religious holiday for a religion you are part of as verified by documentation from an appropriate religious leader.

If you miss an exam for one of the reasons above, there will be a make-up exam scheduled that will be similar in length and difficulty to the original midterm, *but composed entirely of written answer questions*. The make-up will occur exactly one week after the original exam in room S-559. Thus, if you are going to miss the exam for one of the reasons above, email me to let me know why you were not at the original exam, and show up for the make-up exam bringing your documentation along with you.

If you miss the final exam I cannot provide a make-up. Instead you will have to petition to be allowed to write a deferred final exam during the next exam period (up to four months away).

Policies on academic integrity

Please review the UTSC Code on Academic Behaviour:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/courses/calendar/University_of_Toronto_Policies.html#Code_of_Behaviour_on_Academic_Matters

AccessAbility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.