

PSYB57: Memory and Cognition

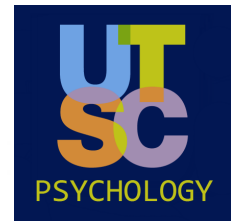
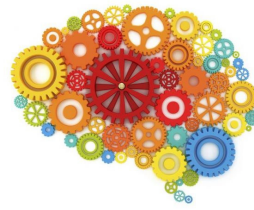
0.5 credits

University of Toronto, Scarborough

Fall Term, 2016

Thursdays 19:00–22:00

LEC 30 (AA 112) | LEC 60 (Web Option)



Instructor: Prof. Michael Souza (“sues-uh”)

Office: PO103, Room 121

Office Hours: Thursdays 5-6PM

Head TA: Celia Fidalgo, office hours time and location TBA

TA: Bilgehan Cavdaroglu, office hours time and location TBA

TA: Shouyu Ling, office hours time and location TBA

TA: Tyler Roberts, office hours time and location TBA

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ALL COURSE CORRESPONDENCE

>> UTSC.PSYB57@GMAIL.COM <<

I. Your course team



Dr. Souza is an Associate Professor (Teaching Stream) in the Department of Psychology. He received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. His teaching interests revolve around higher-order cognitive functions, cognitive impairments and neurorehabilitation. He is also interested in fostering opportunities that promote student growth and development.



Celia is a PhD student in Psychology. She received her BSc in Psychology at Western University and her MA in Psychology from the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on visual long term memory in healthy young adults as well as in older adults at risk for Alzheimer's disease.



Tyler is a Master's student in Psychology. He received his BSc in Psychology from MacEwan University in Edmonton, AB. His research focuses on the neural mechanisms and networks associated with a face and scene processing.



Shouyu is a PhD student in Cognitive Neuroscience. She received her BA (Hons) in Psychology from the University of Toronto Scarborough and MSc from the University of Southampton. Her research focuses on reconstructing information from brain activities.



Bilgehan is a PhD student in Experimental Psychology. He received his BA (Hons) in Psychology and MSc in Cognitive Psychology from Koc University. His research focuses on the neural substrates of decision making under approach avoidance conflict.

II. Course description, pre-requisites and learning goals

Cognitive psychology is a subfield of psychology concerned with the scientific study of mental processes, and how those mental processes give rise to thoughts and actions. The goal of this course is to provide you with a thorough survey of the field of cognition, including coverage in topics such as relevant history and methods, perceptual processing, attention and consciousness, memory, language, problem-solving, reasoning, decision-making and intelligence. This course will help provide you with a strong foundation to continue studies in cognition (e.g., PSYC56) and cognitive neuroscience (e.g., PSYC51, PSYC52).

Prerequisites: PSYA01 and PSYA02

After successful completion of this course, you should have:

- gained knowledge about the importance of cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience in studying the workings of the mind;
- examined how (and why) we employ a range of neurocognitive tools (e.g., RT/accuracy measurements, cognitive models, patient studies, brain imaging) to ask questions in cognitive science;
- practiced applying the use of various cognitive tools to questions in cognitive science;
- worked to synthesize what you have learned across the major cognitive domains to develop a deeper appreciation of the highly integrative nature of cognitive processes;
- worked to link cognitive psychology research with relevant, real-world issues and challenges.

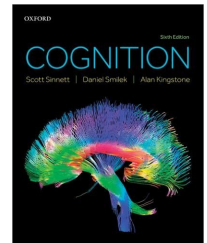
III. Course textbook

Sinnett, S., Smilek, D. & Kingstone, A. (2016). Cognition (6th edition). Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press. (ISBN-13: 978-0199019700)

You should NOT use other editions of this book, as this edition has not been compared to previous editions. As such, you may miss out on necessary material for the exams.

This book may be published in hardcover format at the UTSC bookstore, or other online outlets. An **e-book version** is also available for a cheaper price at this website:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/cognition-scott-sinnett-daniel-smilek-v9780199019717>>



IV. Course webpage

Blackboard Portal will house important course-related announcements, lecture slides (to be posted the day before each lecture), discussion boards to connect with fellow classmates, and exam marks. You should check it regularly for course updates.

V. Course requirements and grading

Midterm Examination (50% of course grade)

The midterm examination will consist of both multiple-choice (MC) questions and short-answer (SA) questions.

Each MC question will have five options and these questions may come in various formats, including (but not limited to) questions with diagrams and “all of the above” or “none of the above” options. MC questions will be drawn from both lecture and the textbook. MC questions must be answered using the Scantron form; answers indicated on the test booklet but not the Scantron form will not be scored.

SA questions may require a one or several sentence response based on the question complexity, and may also require the creation or analysis of a visual (e.g., diagram). SA questions will be drawn from lecture only. SA questions will be weighted based on relative difficulty, as opposed to how many things you need to say (i.e., we will not employ a system of five points requiring five “things” to say).

On the whole, there will be more of a focus from lecture (approx. 2/3 of the points on the exam) than the textbook readings (approx. 1/3 of the points on the exam). For superior performance, you will need to develop a clear understanding of both the lectures and the readings. Rote memorization of lectures and the textbook will not ensure you a high mark; rather, I expect you to not only learn what things are, but also why it is relevant, and how/why it is used, as appropriate.

To give you an opportunity to prepare for the examinations, sample questions will be made available for you to work with about one week prior to each exam. Please keep a look out for these on Blackboard.

Cumulative Final Examination (50% of course grade)

The Final will be structurally similar to the midterm but it will be cumulative and longer. Every lecture will be testable, but only the textbook readings AFTER the Midterm are testable. Similar to the midterm, the focus will be heavier on lecture than the textbook. The goal of the Final is to be integrative across the course, but there may be a bit of a bias towards covering material introduced after the midterm.

Importantly, the date of the final is not announced by the University until the middle of the term. You should NOT make travel plans until you learn the date of your final exams. You CANNOT take the final at a different date/time unless you have a verifiable medical reason.

VI. Course policies

Classroom conduct and participation

Our classroom is a place where you should always feel safe and respected. It is also a place that is conducive to learning and intellectual curiosity. Any behaviors compromising this environment will not be tolerated and the student(s) and/or individual(s) will be asked to leave.

I work to create an interactive dynamic during my lectures that engages you to think and contribute. I challenge you to use this time to not only become familiar with the content we are discussing, but to also develop your critical thinking skills along with me.

Lecture slides

For your convenience, lecture slides will usually be posted by 10PM the evening before a lecture. They will be posted in PDF format in two versions only (2 slides and 6 slides per page).

You should know that these lecture slides are not a suitable substitute for attending or watching lecture. Lecture slides are not exhaustive and we will regularly cover important material that extends beyond them during lecture. You are responsible for this material with respect to testing.

Instructional materials are only for the purpose of learning in this course and must not be distributed or used for any other reason whatsoever.

Reading the textbook

The material covered in the textbook is meant to reinforce and complement what we discuss in lecture. At times, we will overlap more with the textbook than others. The goal of the textbook questions on the exams is to examine your understanding of important concepts and research studies. In the spirit of promoting fairness and transparency, we will target bold face terms and figures in particular.

E-mail policy

In most cases, e-mails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt (not including weekends). All course-related correspondence should be directed to utsc.psyb57@gmail.com. Emails should not be sent to our personal email addresses.

The email subject should include our course name and nature of the inquiry (i.e., “PSYB57: Question about Baddeley’s model of WM”). The start of your email should include your full name and student ID number so that we know who you are. Emails that you send should contain no more than one question and you should try to explain your current understanding of the concept in the email (which will be affirmed or corrected).

If you are not used to writing emails in an academic context, I encourage you to review this online resource so that you adopt proper email etiquette now and in the future:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>

Office hours

You should consider visiting Prof. Souza’s office hours if you would like to (1) discuss course content, (2) if you have an issue with course performance or progress, (3) contest a question on the Midterm after having reviewed it with one of the teaching assistants, or (4) you would like to discuss the field of psychology/neuroscience and how to get more involved. With respect to Point 3, contesting a question must occur within two weeks of releasing the exam marks.

The teaching assistants will hold office hours just before and after the Midterm to support students as they prepare and debrief from the exam, respectively. Midterms will be viewable with the teaching assistants only, and will not be released outside of office hours under any circumstances. **You are NOT allowed to take notes or photographs of the exams and violation of this policy will be treated as academic misconduct, and will be handled accordingly.**

Class discussion board on Blackboard

For your convenience, discussion threads will be created to improve information flow in our course.

On the first thread, you will have a space to share interesting and course-relevant articles or media. On the second thread, you will have a space to ask logistical or related questions to Dr. Souza that other students might benefit from knowing (i.e., not of a personal nature). Content questions will not be answered by Prof. Souza on this thread, but he will happily address any such questions before/after class or during office hours. On the third thread, you may direct questions to your fellow classmates to clarify a concept, form a study group, etc. Please note that you are NOT allowed to post class notes on the discussion board.

Syllabus changes

There may be minor changes to the syllabus during the term. You will be notified of these changes ASAP and no changes will be instituted that dramatically affect your ability to properly prepare for an examination (e.g., reading an extra chapter the week before the midterm).

Taking an examination

In my opinion, punctuality to lectures and exams is a sign of respect to your instructor, teaching assistants and fellow students. Tardy students should not ask the instructor or teaching assistants for what they missed from lecture because they can ask a fellow student. Furthermore, a student will not be allowed to write a midterm or the Final if (1) s/he is tardy 20 minutes or more, or (2) a student has already finished and submitted their exam, whichever occurs first. Students in this situation will not be allowed to write the exam and will receive a “0.”

When time is called at the end of the exam, you must immediately stop working and submit your exam materials. You will not be allowed more time for any reason, including (but not limited to): putting your name or ID on the exam or filling in or changing an answer. You must also remain completely silent until every exam has been collected. Failure to stop working when time is called or to stay silent until all exams have been collected will result in a zero on the exam. Failure to put proper identifying information on the Scantron portion of the exam will result in a zero for that portion of the exam.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work (this includes assignments and midterm exams) must bring their documentation to the Undergraduate Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson, within three (3) business days of the term test / assignment due date. All documentation must be accompanied by the departmental **Request for Missed Term Work form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).

In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an original copy of the **official UTSC Verification of Illness Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MED>) will be accepted. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.

In the case of other emergency, a record of visitation to a hospital emergency room or copy of a death certificate may be considered.

Forms should be dropped off in SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Upon receipt of the documentation, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator within three business days. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are dealt with by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

If you are granted a make-up Midterm, the version will differ from that used for the rest of the class.

AccessAbility

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

Academic Integrity

The University highly values scholarship and academic achievement and takes very seriously any suspected or known cases of cheating and plagiarism. Students are highly encouraged to read the guide on **How Not to Plagiarize** (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>) and to take advantage of **writing resources** on campus (<http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/twc/>). In addition, our campus has a general **Code of Conduct** (<http://tinyurl.com/oh3ff9n>) that all students are expected to follow when interacting with peers, staff of faculty. The keyword here is respect, a good educational context is one in which all parties respect one another's perspective, opinions, and work.

VII. Links you might find useful

UTSC Dates and Deadlines

<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/dates-and-deadlines>

Skill building, future planning

Academic Advising,

Career Centre

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/>

Writing Services

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/>

Presentation Skills

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ctl/presentation-skills>

Co-op Program

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/askcoop/>

Your well-being

AccessAbility

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>

Health and Wellness

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/hwc/>

Test anxiety

https://www.anxietybc.com/sites/default/files/Test_Anxiety_Booklet.pdf

The Department of Psychology

UTSC Psychology

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/psych/>

UTSC Psychology courses

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/psych/courses>

UTSC Experiential Learning

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/psych/experiential-learning>

Psychology lab opportunities

<http://tinyurl.com/jjq25t7>

The Psychology and Neuroscience

Departmental Association

<http://www.thepnda.org/>

PSYB57: Lecture and reading schedule

May be subject to minor revisions with advance notice from the instructor

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned readings</u>
1	08-Sep	Course Introduction History of cognitive psychology/neuroscience	Ch. 1
2	15-Sep	Methods in cognitive psychology	Ch. 2
3	22-Sep	Sensation and perception	Ch. 3
4	29-Sep	Conceptual knowledge Attention and consciousness	Ch. 8 (253-60) Ch. 4; Ch. 13 (406-23)
5	06-Oct	Attention and consciousness (con't)	(con't)
6	13-Oct	Reading week - NO CLASS	-
7	20-Oct	*Midterm Examination	Lectures 1-5 All readings above
8	27-Oct	Memory processes and systems	Ch. 5 (127-49) Ch. 6 (172-93)
9	03-Nov	Memory processes and systems (con't) Visual imagery	(con't) Ch. 7 (202-9; 216-32)
10	10-Nov	Language	Ch. 9
11	17-Nov	Problem-solving and expertise	Ch. 10
12	24-Nov	Reasoning and decision-making	Ch. 11
13	01-Dec	<u>Special topics lectures (TBA)</u> Course conclusion	-
14	**	Cumulative Final Examination	Lectures 1-5; 8-13 All readings after midterm

*Midterm to be held during normal class time (7pm-10pm)

**to be announced by the Registrar approximately two months before the exam