

PSYB57: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

Online Asynchronous (Lectures posted on Mondays),

Winter 2021

Instructor: Aedan Li, PhD Candidate in Psychology (Cognitive Neuroscience)

Contact: Direct Message on Quercus

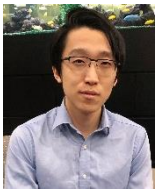
Email: aedanyue.li@utoronto.ca

Location: <https://q.utoronto.ca>

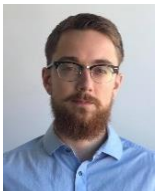
Office Hours: Thursday, 10 – 11 AM EST over Zoom (link posted on Quercus).

Teaching Assistant(s): Cody Cane (cody.cane@mail.utoronto.ca)
Sonja Chu (sonja.chu@mail.utoronto.ca)
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Course Team:



Aedan is a PhD Candidate in Psychology (Cognitive Neuroscience) based in the Memory & Perception Lab at the University of Toronto. He received his BSc (Hons) in Psychology at the University of Toronto Scarborough and his MA in Psychology at the University of Toronto. He uses behavioural and neuroimaging methods to study multimodal integration, such as how we perceive and remember our experiences of the external environment.



Cody is a MA Candidate in Clinical Psychology, based in the Clinical Neurosciences Lab at UTSC. He received his Bachelor of Cognitive Science Honours, specialized in the biological foundations of cognition, from Carleton University. He is currently using neuroimaging methods to study disinhibition in individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder.



Di is a 4th year PhD student based in the CAPLab at UTSC. She received her BA in Psychology and in Linguistics at McGill University and her MSc in Language Sciences (with Neurolinguistics) at University College London. Her research looks at how language ambiguity is represented and processed in the brain using a combination of behavioural and computational methods.



Greer is a first year Master's student in the Cant Lab at the University of Toronto Scarborough and the Fukuda lab at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Greer is primarily interested in the interactions between attention and other cognitive systems (e.g., perception, visual working memory).

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Sonja is a PhD Candidate in UTSC's Clinical Psychology program and a member of the Lee MTL Lab (Dr. Andy Lee). She received her BA (Hons.) in Psychology at McGill University and her MA in Psychological Clinical Science at UTSC. Her research involves using behavioral methods and functional magnetic resonance imaging to explore motivational conflict decision making in individuals with anxiety and eating disorders.



Tyler is a 4th year PhD student in Psychology (Cognitive Neuroscience) and is from the Cant and Nestor labs at UTSC. He received his BSc in Psychology at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, and an MA in Psychology from the University of Toronto. His research focuses on the neural mechanisms associated with face and scene processing, specifically, using EEG and machine learning techniques.

1. Course Description and Objectives

Cognitive psychology is the study of the building blocks of how we think and reason. We need to pay attention to the environment, create mental representations, remember information, manipulate knowledge, and express thoughts. In this online course, we will discuss the fundamentals of perception, attention, memory, problem solving, and decision-making, and how these cognitive processes relate to our daily lives.

This course involves active online participation as well as practical application of the concepts learned in class. The assignments and quizzes are designed so that you can *apply* the knowledge you have learned in lecture to the real world.

Pre-requisites: PSYA01 and PSYA02

In summary, after the successful completion of this course, you will:

- A) Be knowledgeable in the complementary roles of cognitive psychology and neuroscience in our understanding of how the mind works
- B) Be knowledgeable in a range of useful cognitive science tools, as well as how these tools relate to our understanding of cognitive process
- C) Be knowledgeable in the core cognitive theories across different domains of psychology, as well as a framework for articulating the kinds of evidence necessary to falsify these theories
- D) Be able to consider theories of cognitive psychology critically, and apply this knowledge to real world scenarios
- E) Understand how to discuss, summarize, and communicate your ideas in the written form

The last two skills are particularly crucial as they are transferable to other courses and more importantly, will serve you well in the future no matter what further studies/career you pursue.

2. Course Textbook

E. Bruce Goldstein, Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience, 5th Edition. ISBN-13: 978-1-337-40827-1 **(required)**

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I recommend purchasing the online eBook with MindTap through the UofT Bookstore for \$59.95. This should be the cheapest option available: https://uoftbookstore.com/textbooks/access_codes.asp

Please scroll down to our class (UTSC PSYB57 MINDTAP/EBOOK) and purchase using the eBook Shopping Cart. Once you have purchased the eBook with MindTap, you may join our class through this link: <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPPKHZQJC61/initial-course-confirmation>

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

Lecture slides, videos, assignments, and quizzes will all be posted on Quercus. Following the communications on Quercus closely is essential for this online course. Keeping up with readings and tasks is your responsibility.

3. Email Policy

Please check the syllabus and the class materials posted on Quercus before sending an email. You will find answers to most of your questions there. If you cannot find the answer there, then please post your question to the general class discussion on Quercus. It is likely that some of your classmates have the same question. By posting on the class discussion, they will be able to see your question as well as my answer.

I am available to answer questions about lecture material in the online forum as well as through Zoom during office hours. Please address any questions about grading and assessment to your assigned TA. The preferred form of communication for the TAs and the instructor is direct messaging on Quercus.

We aim to respond to your message within the next 1 to 2 business days. **Make sure to include “PSYB57” in the subject line, as well as your name and student number in the body of the message.**

Finally, please **consider all class communications as professional correspondence**. Proof-read your message for spelling and grammar. Do not use short-hands and abbreviations – we are not your Facebook/Snapchat/Instagram/WeChat buddies. Remember, **emails and posts on Quercus last forever and cannot be unsent**.

For a guide on how to communicate professionally, read this: <https://tinyurl.com/kysxwtx>

4. Course Evaluations

The class consists of five main units, each with two weeks of learning processes. In each unit, students will be able to earn up to 200 points. At the end of the semester, there will be a final exam worth 300 points.

A) Class participation (80 points)

Each unit will entail various individual and group activities. All students are expected to actively participate in these activities online, primarily through online discussions on Quercus and through the submission of

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materials related to the respective activities. There will be 2 group activities in each unit, each worth 30 points. The final 20 points in each unit will be from active participation with your peers.

Participation will be graded by Teaching Assistants at the end of each unit. The participation mark will be determined based on the quality of the intellectual contribution, not based on the sheer number of words written.

B) Assessment of mastery of material (120 points)

Following each unit, students will be asked to demonstrate mastery of the material by taking an online quiz at a set date. Online quizzes will be available for a period of 1 day near the end of each unit. Once the quiz has been started, there is 80 minutes to complete the quiz in one sitting.

C) Final Exam (300 points)

At the end of the semester, there will be a final exam worth 300 points. This exam is cumulative and will include material from Unit 1 to 5. More details will be posted on Quercus.

D) “Life Happens” Insurance

We will drop your **lowest grade for one unit, for any reason (you do not need to let us know and no documentation is necessary)**. This means that if you received 0/200 for one unit, this 0 will not count towards your final grade. **However, the material from Units 1 to 5 will still be tested on the final exam.**

In summary, the breakdown of your final grade will be from 4 units (200 points each) and from the final exam (300 points), for a total of 1100 points.

E) Independent practice with MindTap

Lecture videos and activities will provide some opportunities to apply concepts that are introduced. The MindTap platform provides multiple research-based methods of review that will support you through this course. MindTap is not mandatory nor are these activities graded, though time spent on this type of practice will likely pay off in test performance.

F) Extra credit (11 points)

You may receive extra credit of 11 points (1% of the final grade) for participating in a ‘Welcome to the Class’ bonus assignment. This assignment is due by the end of January. Details will be posted on Quercus.

5. Course Policies

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5.1. Late Work

I have built a lot of flexibility into the course, so I will not be accepting late work. Online quizzes can only be taken on the day they are scheduled.

If you know in advance of a legitimate reason for being absent or unable to meet a specific class deadline (e.g., religious holiday or academic event), please contact your instructor as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made if possible, **but early notice is critical for this**. All unplanned absences for graded elements of the course are covered under section 6 listed below.

5.2. Grading Policy

On principle, I do not round grades so please do not email to ask. All emails asking for rounding will be deleted.

Arts and Science Statement on What Grades Mean:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Grade Definition	
90-100	A+	4.0	Excellent	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
85-89	A	4.0		
80-84	A-	3.7		
77-79	B+	3.3	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
73-76	B	3.0		
70-72	B-	2.7		
67-69	C+	2.3	Adequate	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject matter and ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
63-66	C	2.0		
60-62	C-	1.7		
57-59	D+	1.3	Marginal	Some evidence of familiarity with the subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.
53-56	D	1.0		
50-52	D-	0.7		
0-49	F	0.0	Inadequate	Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.

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5.3. Contesting a grade

All requests for a re-grade must be submitted in writing within two weeks of the day the grade is received. Only requests that include adequate written justification of an error in the original grading will be considered. *A legitimate request will result in the entire assignment being re-graded. Your overall grade may be raised, lowered, or it may stay the same.*

5.4. Course Materials & Audio/Video Recording

Instructional materials are made available only for the purposes of this course and should not be distributed or used for any other purpose. As outlined in the Provost's guidelines on *Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology*, for reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited unless written permission has been granted by the instructor or for students with specific accommodations to do so.

5.5. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments: Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement; Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor; Making up sources or facts; Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams: Using or possessing unauthorized aids; Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test; Misrepresenting your identity; and When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it. In academic work: Falsifying institutional documents or grades; Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes; and; when you knew or ought to have known you were doing so. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the **Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters**. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Note: You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proofreading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language

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should go to the English Language Development Centre. If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

6. Psychology Department Missed Term Work Policy, WINTER 2021

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- Missed Final Exams are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService: <http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office: <https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>

Accommodations for Illness or Emergency:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, please complete the following **two-step** process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and email it to Keely Hicks at keely.hicks@utoronto.ca ,
and
2. **Declare your absence** on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

Deadline: You must complete the above steps **within 3 business days** of the missed work.

Note: For this semester, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (ex. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.

Accommodations for Academic Conflicts:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (i.e. two quizzes or tests scheduled at the same time), please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing "Other" as your reason for missed work and explaining the conflict in the space provided.
2. Take screenshots of your course homepages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Note: Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Accommodations may only be possible in the case of quizzes and tests that are both scheduled during the same discrete period. Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts.

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Note: Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who choose to register in two synchronous courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules may not necessarily be accommodated.

Accommodations for Religious Conflicts:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing “Other” as your reason for missed work and noting “Religious conflict” in the space provided.
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Accommodations for Time Zone Conflicts:

If you are physically in a different time zone and a quiz or midterm is scheduled outside of 7:00am to midnight in your local time, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Time Zone Conflict Form** (<https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>), and
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible, if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Accommodations for Students Registered with AccessAbility Services:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days):
 1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).
 2. Email the form and your **Accommodation Letter** to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that):
 1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

After submitting your documentation:

Within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

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You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

Completion of this form does not guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form and declare your extended absence on ACORN.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents within the three business day window, **you must email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) within the three business day window** to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under **exceptional circumstances**.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this Missed Term Work policy, please contact Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well before** the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and inquire about procedures.

7. Student Resources

A) AccessABILITY Services: 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 your instructors and/or the AccessAbility Services as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the better we can assist you in achieving your learning goals.

B) Writing Centre: The UTSC Writing Centre works with students at all stages of assignment development: from brainstorming and developing an outline to constructing introductions, body paragraphs and

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conclusions, to citation, referencing, editing, and proofreading. They offer individual consultations as well as writing groups, workshops, and clinics. Please see the website for more details:
<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/one-one-tutoring>.

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Course Schedule (times are displayed in EST – Toronto time):

Date	Topic
Jan. 11 th – Jan. 17 th	Unit 0 – Introduction to Cognitive Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience Readings: Chapters 1 and 2 'Welcome to the Class' bonus assignment: due by Jan. 31 st , 11:59 PM Practice Quiz: Jan. 15 th , 7 am – Jan. 16 th , 7 am
Jan. 18 th – Jan 31 st	Unit 1 – Perception & Attention Readings: Chapter 3 and 4 Quiz: Jan. 29 th , 7 am – Jan. 30 th , 7 am
Feb 1 st – Feb 14 th	Unit 2 – Memory Readings: Chapter 5 and 6 Quiz: Feb 12 th , 7 am – Feb 13 th , 7 am
Feb 15 th – Feb 21 st	Reading Week
Feb 22 nd – March 7 th	Unit 3 – Memory (Continued) Readings: Chapter 7 and 8 Quiz: March 5 th , 7 am – March 6 th , 7 am
March 8 th – March 21 st	Unit 4 – Knowledge, Imagery, & Language Readings: Chapter 9 and 10 Quiz: March 19 ^h , 7 am – March 20 th , 7 am
March 22 nd – April 4 th	Unit 5 – Problem Solving, Decision Making, and Consciousness Readings: Chapter 12 and 13 Quiz: April 2 nd , 7 am – April 3 rd , 7 am
April 5 th – April 11 th	Class Q&A: Ask Us Anything! (E.g., What do I need to get into graduate school? What can I do with a Psychology degree?)
TBA (after April 12th)	Cumulative Final Exam: Units 1 to 5

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