

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

A. Course Information

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Lectures Mondays, 6-9pm
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*TAs will have "just-in-time" office hours before and after assignments are due and after the exam

Course Materials 1. *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience*, 4th Edition by Bruce E. Goldstein (Wadsworth, 2014)
2. iClicker Remote (optional)

Pre-Requisites Prerequisite – PSY100H1/COG250Y1 (formerly UNI250Y) or registered in the Cog. Sci. program
Note about prerequisites: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met *all* prerequisites listed in the Psychology section of the A&S Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you will be removed. No waivers will be granted.

Course Objectives **What do I want you to be able to do at the end of this course?** I want you to be able to think like an experimental scientist, recognizing the links between hypotheses, methods, results & conclusions. I want you to hear a claim, like "painting a room red makes people eat more", & reflexively ask, "how do you know that?" I want you to be able to critique the methods that experimental psychologists use to study cognition – both in terms of really excellent experimental design & interpretation, & less than perfect investigations that leave you skeptical about a specific claim.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. describe the basic evidence-based knowledge in the different content areas of cognitive psychology research;
2. interpret results from the most important paradigms in the study of cognitive psychology;
3. analyze how research findings support major theories of cognitive psychology;
4. critique the assumptions, limitations, & investigations of cognitive psychology;
5. apply research & theory from cognitive psychology to enhance your learning experience, personal growth, & your understanding of the everyday behavior of human beings;
6. practice some of the skills necessary for effective writing;
7. engage with other students to facilitate learning!

Blackboard & Lecture Slides Log in to Blackboard (<https://portal.utoronto.ca>) to view the course webpage. I will post a pdf of my lecture slides under Blackboard > Lecture Slides the evening before a lecture. Please keep in mind **that my lectures slides are to help me present & can facilitate your note-taking**, but they are not meant to serve as a replacement for coming to class & will not be effective study aids without your lecture notes to support them. My lecture slides will be sparse in text, & in order to facilitate critical thinking I will eliminate some slides from the pdfs. As such, regular attendance will be helpful for achieving a good grade.

You are responsible for all announcements posted to Blackboard & made in class. Please check Blackboard frequently for updates, & be sure to get information from classmates about announcements made in lecture in your absence.

Classroom Behavior

Please be respectful of your classmates & me. This includes **arriving to class on time, staying seated except during breaks & activities, & avoiding distracting behavior like texting or surfing the internet.**

On occasion, you might feel it is necessary to say something to a classmate. I won't police the class. However, if I find your talking distracting I will politely ask you to stop talking.

Email

Please use the website Discussion Board for content-related questions. This way, all students will benefit from the reply, whether from the instructor, TAs, or your fellow students. If you have questions about an assignment, you should request a meeting with your assigned TA. **If you need to get in touch with Dr. Dukewich for any other reason, please email psy270dukewich@psych.utoronto.ca.** Replies may take 1-2 business days. In all cases, if your email requires a response greater than 1-2 sentences, we will ask you to schedule a meeting or visit office hours.

B. Methods of Assessment

Assessment	Assessment Tool	Points	Dates
	Term Test	35%	October 20 th
	3 Reflective Writing Assignments	3 x 5%	various dates, see schedule
	In-Class Mock Peer Assessment	2%	September 22 nd
	Final Exam	45%	regular exam period, TBA
	Participation Points	3%	Sept 15 – Dec 1 (inclusive)
	Base Points Available:	100%	
	Bonus Credit	1% (max)	December 2 nd

Exams

The midterm & final exam will consist of **multiple-choice & short answer questions**. Both exams will be based on lecture material & the required readings. The final exam will be **cumulative for lectures & non-cumulative for required readings**. On exam day, please bring your Student card or other picture ID & be sure to arrive on time since no additional time is given to students who arrive late. If you fail to fill in the computer answer sheet with your ID number or last name you will lose 2% of your exam grade. If you fail to fill in the computer answer sheet with your answers (i.e. you haven't transferred the answers from the booklet to the bubble sheet) by the end of the test period, you will take a zero for the MC section of the exam.

Midterms will be available for review during exam review sessions scheduled in the two weeks after the grades have been posted. The schedule will be announced on Blackboard shortly after grades are released.

Assignments

There are 3 compulsory assignments & 1 optional bonus credit assignment. Each assignment – the reflective writing assignments & the optional bonus credit assignment – **has its own assignment document with detailed guidelines, marking rubrics & submission instructions**. Please go to Blackboard to access these documents.

Participation Points

Participation is evaluated by the proportion of participation questions you answer, regardless of accuracy, beginning September 15th. There are two ways to earn participation marks; via iClicker, or using the paper option. If you choose to use an iClicker, please complete registration on Blackboard by following the link to "iClicker Registration" in the left sidebar. Participation marks earned by iClicker will be updated within 48 hours after a class. **Note: Using another person's iClicker is absolutely not permitted for any reason.**

If you choose to pursue the paper option, you must write down your answers to questions presented **in lecture on a full 8 x 11" piece of paper with your name, student ID number, & the date**. To get full participation, you must also write down the full answer to the question. For example: "A: working memory". You must turn in your paper within 5 minutes of the end of lecture. Participation marks earned by the **paper option will be updated at the end of each month**.

There is no way to recoup missed participation marks, including for medical reasons or late registration. When you're not present, you're not participating...but you can miss up to 15% without penalty. This is the formula for calculating your participation grade:

$$\text{your mark out of } 3\% = \left(\frac{3}{\text{total \# of questions asked} \times 0.85} \right) \times \# \text{ you answered to a max of } 3\%$$

C. Course Policies

Acceptable Documentation

Acceptable documentation can come in two forms: medical verification of illness or injury, or a request for academic consideration from your college registrar.

For **uncomplicated medical issues**, students may submit an official *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* dated +/- 1 day of the missed assignment or test indicating a condition that is at least moderately serious & including start date & anticipated end date for the condition.

For **more complex medical issues** (e.x. long-term illness or injury), **non-medical issues** (e.x. family emergencies) & **any situations for which the above criteria for medical documentation cannot be met**, students must meet with their College Registrar. If the registrar is satisfied with the documentation provided, s/he can contact me directly to ask for special consideration on the student's behalf. This will also be considered acceptable documentation.

Assignments: Late & Sick Policy

Because the assignments are all low-stakes assignments, you will **have one opportunity to submit an assignment late** (not including bonus assignments) without penalty within 3 days of the original due date/time. Any further late assignments will not be graded and assigned a zero. If a student misses an assignment submission & can provide **acceptable documentation**, the weight of the assignment will be transferred to his/her final exam. If a student is **excused from more than two assignments**, s/he will be required to submit a 4-page make-up essay (topic TBD).

Missed Term Test Policy

If a student misses the term test & can provide **acceptable documentation**, the weight of the term test will be transferred to his/her final exam.

Missed Final Policy

Students who miss the final exam for reasons entirely beyond their control **may petition the Faculty of Arts & Science to write a deferred exam at a much later date**. The student must obtain documentation & go immediately to their College Registrar's Office for advice on formal petitions.

Appeals

Students who have a complaint about the way a piece of term work was marked **must first approach the TA to discuss their concern**. If the student isn't satisfied by the way the meeting went s/he can write an appeal letter to Dr. Dukewich, **submitted through your assigned TA**.

All requests for a re-grade must be submitted in writing within 7 days of the exam or assignment being made available for student viewing. **Only requests that include adequate written justification of an error in the original grading will be considered**. Assignment appeals must also include a student-completed marking rubric, & written justification for any differences between your completed rubric & the TA's completed rubric.

Dr. Dukewich will only review appeals that fit the above criteria. Please see Blackboard > Assignments > Appeals.pdf for an example of an acceptable assignment appeal. **A legitimate request will result in the entire exam or assignment being re-graded. Your overall grade may be raised, lowered, or it may stay the same.**

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning & scholarship at the UofT. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, & fairly in this academic community ensures that your UofT degree is valued & respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement. The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behavior on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviors that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, & the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. **Please visit utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information on your responsibilities as a student.**

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing (or "stealing") of another writer's words & ideas, & minor changes in the wording here & there are not sufficient to avoid plagiarism. To better understand plagiarism, please refer to <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>. If after consulting these websites you are still in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor or TA. **Claims such as "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.**

Access & Diversity

Students with diverse learning styles & needs are **most welcome in this course!** In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me or contact Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; accessibility.utoronto.ca.

D. Explore It

This year, we are adding a new element to the course – the Explore It program. **This is a voluntary career exploration program that will allow you to meet with alumnus from the Department of Psychology in their work environment** and to see firsthand, how the skills and knowledge gained through this course are translated into a breadth of potential careers. Visits with alumni hosts will last from a half- to a full-day and can include up to eight students. Each experience will differ depending on the alumni host but in all cases, you see an alumni's career in action, can grow your network and will have the opportunity to consider your education in a wider context. An Explore It orientation will be scheduled in the second week of lectures, introducing you to the program and showing you how to participate.

E. Tentative Course Schedule

This plan is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class & posted on Blackboard.

Date	Topic	Reading	Notes
Sept 8	Welcome, Syllabus Overview, History	Ch 1	
Sept 15	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch 2	Participation points begin; Explore It & Reflective Writing will be explained
Sept 22	Perception	Ch 3	In-Class Tutorial: Mock Peer Assessment Activity
Sept 29	Attention	Ch 4	Writing Prompt 1: Due Thursday, September 25 th @ 11:59pm
Oct 6	Short-Term & Working Memory	Ch 5	
Oct 13	***** Thanksgiving *****		no class
Oct 20	***** Term Test *****		location TBA
Oct 27	Long-Term Memory: Structures	Ch 6	
Nov 3	Long-Term Memory: Encoding & Retrieval	Ch 7	Writing Prompt 2: Due Thursday, November 6 th @ 11:59pm
Nov 10	Knowledge	Ch 9	
Nov 17	***** Fall Break *****		no class
Nov 24	Visual Imagery	Ch 10	Writing Prompt 3: Due Thursday, November 27 th @ 11:59pm
Dec 1	Special Lecture: Expectation & Violation of Expectation	no reading ☺	Last day to complete one of the optional bonus credit assignments is December 2 nd
Dec 3	make-up Monday (on Wednesday): Reflection & Review Session	optional	Explore It participants should attend, but everyone is encourage to attend the entire session

The final exam will be scheduled during the regular exam period (December 8-19 inclusive). To avoid an unexcused absence, please do not make travel plans during the exam period.