

# Psychology 3530: Cognitive Psychology

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**Meeting Time/Place:**

MTWTh / 9:55AM - 11:40AM

401 Whitehead Hall

**Contact Information:**

Instructor: Nick Brosowsky

Email: [nbrosowsky@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:nbrosowsky@gradcenter.cuny.edu)

Office: 4303D James Hall

Office Hours: by appointment

**Course Website:**

[nbrosowsky.github.io/courses/2017CognitivePsychology](https://nbrosowsky.github.io/courses/2017CognitivePsychology)

or the shortened link:

[goo.gl/k5yRTA](https://goo.gl/k5yRTA)

**Course Description & Learning Objectives**

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Welcome to Cognitive Psychology! Cognitive psychology is one of the most exciting fields because we get to learn about how we think, and why we behave the way we do. We'll cover a wide range of topics including perception, attention, memory, and decision-making. We'll be examining what researchers have discovered through experimental work, and the practical applications of these concepts. We will be reading a combination of primary research articles and the textbook.

Required Text: Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Editions, E. Bruce Goldstein, Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Note: You do not need to purchase the CogLab manual.

- Additional reading material will be supplied by the instructor and posted on the course website.
- Course requirements include use of the Web and Internet tools (Blackboard, email, etc.)

**Email Correspondence**

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I will regularly use e-mail to send out announcements, changes in the syllabus, reminders about tests or due dates etc. It is your responsibility to check e-mail regularly to keep up-to-date with these announcements. I will use the e-mail address you have listed with the College. Therefore, please make sure that this is indeed the correct address.

Email is typically the best way to get in touch with me. However, my inbox can fill up very quickly. To ensure that I read see and read your email quickly please use the following format for the email subject: "PSYC 3530: [insert informative title here]". I will typically reply within 24 hours. If you haven't heard from me within 72 hours, feel free to resend your email.

**Grading & Evaluation**

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Your overall grade will be based on your (1.) test scores, (2.) an oral presentation, (3.) short writing assignments, (4.) your participation in class, and any (5.) extra credit you do. A straight scale will be used, but I reserve the right to curve the final grade.

**Tests (60% total):** You will take four non-cumulative tests throughout the semester.

- Each test is worth 15% of your grade.
- ANY material in the textbook and/or posted on the website is fair game for the tests

**Missed Tests:** Make-up tests will be given when there is a valid reason for missing the test. If you know you have a valid excuse, then please let me know and provide the relevant documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). If you anticipate missing an exam, please contact me so that we can arrange a make-up. Make up tests may not be the same format as an in class exam (e.g., a make-up test could be writing a paper on a topic related to the missed exam).

**Final Exam:** There is no traditional final exam in this course. The final exam for this course will be the fourth, non-cumulative test. This will take place during your scheduled final exam period.

**Missed Final Exam:** If you miss the final exam, your grade will be filed as INC with the registrar. If the registrar deems that you have an appropriate reason for missing the exam, you must fill out a form and pay a fee in order to take the final exam over the summer or in the fall.

**Student Presentations (15%):** Being able to communicate your ideas in meetings is a critical skill needed in science, and in most fields, but most students have little practice with public speaking. Each student will give a presentation for approximately 10 minutes about an assigned journal article. Further details can be found on the course website.

**Writing Assignments: QALMRI (15%):** For each class of student presentations, students who are not presenting are required to write a one page QALMRI on one of the to-be-presented papers. There are 4 presentation dates, so you are required to complete 3 QALMRIs.

QALMRI is an acronym that stands for Question, Alternatives, Logic, Methods, Results, Inferences. Further details can be found on the course website. Note: Collectively, the QALMRIs are worth as much as a single test, so do them!

**Attendance & Class Participation (10%):** There are many types of class participation that will be factored into this portion of your grade. Attendance and being on time, is obviously the most basic component of class participation, and is required for maximizing your learning. I will be taking attendance during every class. If you miss more than 3 classes, your attendance and participation grade will be marked accordingly.

Another basic component of class participation is being respectful of the classroom environment. Cell phone and internet use are not permitted in class. They are a distraction for both you and your peers. Everyone's time is valuable and class time is set aside for class. Please do your texting, emailing, and web surfing outside of class. Points will be deducted from your attendance and participation grade if your phone rings, or if I notice you using your cell phone or PDA for any reason during class. If you are a habitual offender in this respect (i.e. it happens more than twice during the semester), I will ask you to leave the classroom if your phone rings. If you absolutely need to have your phone on during class—talk to me at the beginning of the class.

Learning is best achieved by deeply engaging with material. Ask questions! If you are confused, chances are someone else is too, so raise your hand and ask. If you want to know more about something, please ask.

**Extra credit:** You may participate in research studies conducted at Brooklyn College. You may do a maximum of 5 hours (or 5 credits) for a maximum of 5% extra credit on your final grade. For each experiment you do, you must write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) describing the purpose of the experiment and what you did. You may sign up at: <http://brooklyncollege.sona-systems.com/>

The total amount of extra credit you may receive from talks or research participation is 5%.

### **Accessibility**

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It is important to me that the course be accessible to all students. In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services, please provide me with the course accommodation form so we may discuss your specific accommodation.

### **Non-attendance because of religious beliefs**

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Students who miss class or exams because of religious beliefs will be allowed to make up the work, provided that they notify the instructor at least one week in advance. For a full description on policy and state law, please see p. 35 in the Bulletin.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct**

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The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

### **Research & Writing Help**

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The Library maintains a collection of links to sites that can assist you with proper citation format and paraphrasing and quoting other authors at <http://library.brooklyn.cuny.edu>

The Learning Center has writing tutors available to help you with your writing <http://lc.brooklyn.cuny.edu/>. The best learning is done in conversation with others, whether they are people—classmates, teachers, friends—or texts—books, articles, essays, poems, films etc. It should not be a solitary process. However, the assignments that you hand in for this course must be done on your own, should represent your own thinking, and should be original work that you have done for this particular course. In my opinion, the best way to balance these two seemingly contradictory approaches (collaborative learning and original individually-produced work) without knowingly—or, even unwittingly—resorting to plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct is to learn and meticulously observe the rules for citing the work of others (this could be the great point your roommate made that you used in your paper, it could be a well-turned phrase from an academic essay, or it could be anything in between). It is your responsibility to learn what constitutes plagiarism and the correct rules for citing sources—read the information on the following website carefully: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies/>. The bottom line is: passing off anyone's words or ideas as your own for any reason whatsoever is plagiarism.

### **Important Dates:**

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July 17	Last day to add a course for Summer Session II.
July 20	Last day to drop a course Summer Session II.
August 2	Last day to withdraw with a "W" grade from Summer Session II courses.

Date			Class Content
1	Thurs	13-Jul	Introductions
2	Mon	17-Jul	2. Cognitive Neuroscience
3	Tues	18-Jul	3. Perception
4	Wed	19-Jul	4. Attention
5	Thurs	20-Jul	Presentations / Test Review / QALMRI due
6	Mon	24-Jul	<b>Test 1: Ch. 1, 2, 3, &amp; 4</b>
7	Tues	25-Jul	5. STM & Working Memory
8	Wed	26-Jul	6. LTM: Structure
9	Thurs	27-Jul	7. LTM Memory: Encoding & Retrieval
10	Mon	31-Jul	Presentations / Test Review / QALMRI due
11	Tues	1-Aug	<b>Test 2: Ch. 5, 6, &amp; 7</b>
12	Wed	2-Aug	8. Everyday Memory & Memory Errors
13	Thurs	3-Aug	9. Knowledge
14	Mon	7-Aug	10. Visual Imagery
15	Tues	8-Aug	Presentations / Test Review / QALMRI due
16	Wed	9-Aug	<b>Test 3: Ch. 8, 9, &amp; 10</b>
17	Thurs	10-Aug	11. Language
18	Mon	14-Aug	12. Problem Solving
19	Tues	15-Aug	13. Judgment, Decisions, and Reasoning
20	Wed	16-Aug	Presentations / Test Review / QALMRI due
	Thurs	17-Aug	<b>Test 4 (Final Exam): Ch. 11, 12, &amp; 13</b>