

Psychology 3530: Cognitive Psychology **Mondays & Wednesdays 3:40m - 4:55pm**

Instructor:

Nicholaus Brosowsky

Email: nbrosowsky@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Office: James 4303

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Website: see Blackboard

Course Description & Learning Objectives

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, 3rd or 4th 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 Blackboard.
- Course requirements include use of the Web and Internet tools (Blackboard, email, etc.)

Email Correspondence

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, but you may also call me in my office. Please **include PSYC 3530 and an informative title** to ensure that I read your email quickly. I will typically reply within 24 hours. If you haven't heard from me within 72 hours, feel free to resend your email. If you cannot make my regular office hours, I am happy to schedule individual meetings with you.

Also, please exchange phone numbers or email addresses with at least one classmate.

How to Succeed in this Course

In college, you should expect to put in 3 hours of work outside of class for each one hour in class. Therefore, to do well in this course (a 3-credit course), you should expect to put in 9 hours of work outside of class per week. Outside of class you are expected to keep up with the reading, do homework assignments, and study for exams.

Grading & Evaluation

Your overall grade will be based on your exam scores, an oral presentation, short writing

assignments, your participation in class, and any extra credit you do. A straight scale will be used, but I reserve the right to curve the final grade.

Exams (55% total): There will be three non-cumulative exams.

- Exam 1: 15%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Exam 3: 20%

Missed Exams: Make-up exams will be given when there is a valid reason for missing the exam. 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 exams may not be the same format as an in-class exam (e.g., a make up exam could be writing a 15-page paper on a topic related to the missed exam).

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 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 Blackboard.

Writing Assignments: QALMRI (20%): 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. Only 10 of these will be graded. There are 12 presentation dates, so there are 11 classes for you to write a QALMRI. You can skip one, or I will drop one from your grade. They will be turned in using the assignments tab in Blackboard and will be graded pass/fail. QALMRI is an acronym that stands for Question, Alternatives, Logic, Methods, Results, Inferences, Question. Further details can be found on Blackboard.

- **QALMRIs will be due the day before class (11:59 pm). I will not accept late submissions.**
- Note: Collectively, the QALMRIs are worth more than a single exam, 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/>

Alternatively, you may also attend talks on research in psychology (1% credit per talk, 5 maximum). I will email and/or post talks on Blackboard that you may attend. If you hear of other talks on psychology or neuroscience and would like to attend those (for example, at another college or university), please email me the title and speaker name for approval. For each talk you attend, you must write a short paragraph (4-5) sentences about something you learned from the talk and/or something you thought was interesting. The total amount of extra credit you may receive from talks or research participation is 5%.

Accessibility

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

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

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.

Help with Research and Writing

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> → Research & Writing Help. 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 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

- Feb. 2nd – last day for 75% tuition refund / last day to add a course
- Feb. 9th – last day for 50% tuition refund
- Feb. 16th – last day for 25% tuition refund / last day to drop a course without a grade of “W”
- March 30th to April 8th – Spring Recess
- May 17th – Reading Day
- May 17th to 24th – Final Exams

COURSE SCHEDULE

All readings listed for a particular day should be read **before** lecture. You may find it useful to bring the assigned articles to class.

Topics and Assignments:

| Date | Topic | Readings/Assignments Due |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| M Jan 29 th | Introduction | Ch. 1 |
| W Jan 31 st | Cognitive Neuroscience | Ch. 2; Presentation Sign Up |
| M Feb 5 th | Student Presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W Feb 7 th | Perception | Ch. 3 |
| M Feb 12 th | <i>No Classes</i> | |
| W Feb 14 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| M Feb 19 th | <i>College closed</i> | |
| TUE FEB 20th | Attention | Ch. 4 |
| W Feb 21 st | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| M Feb 26 th | Short-term & Working Memory | Ch. 5 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| W Feb 28 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| M March 5 th | Exam 1 | |
| | | |
| W March 7 th | Long-term Memory: Structure | Ch. 6 |
| M March 12 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W March 14 th | LTM: Encoding & Retrieval | Ch. 7 |
| M March 19 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W March 21 st | Everyday Memory & Memory Errors | Ch. 8 |
| M March 26 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W March 28 th | Knowledge | Ch. 9 |
| M April 2 nd | <i>Spring Recess</i> | |
| W April 4 th | <i>Spring Recess</i> | |
| M April 9 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W April 11 th | <i>No Classes (Friday Schedule)</i> | |
| M April 16 th | Exam 2 | |
| | | |
| W April 18 th | Visual Imagery | Ch. 10 |
| M April 23 rd | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W April 25 th | Language | Ch. 11 |
| M April 30 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W May 2 nd | Problem-Solving | Ch. 12 |
| M May 7 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W May 9 th | Judgments, Decisions, and Reasoning | Ch. 13 |
| M May 14 th | Student presentations | Read Articles; QALMRI |
| W May 16 th | Review | |
| | | |
| W May 23 rd | Final Exam, 3:30-5:30 pm | |