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### PSYX 280.01: Fundamentals of Memory and Cognition

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# **Psyx 280: Fundamentals of Memory and Cognition**

**Spring 2015**

## **Course Information**

Location: FOR 305

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:10 – 10:00am

## **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Brandon Stewart

Email: [brandon.stewart@umontana.edu](mailto:brandon.stewart@umontana.edu) (the BEST way to contact me)

Office: Skaggs Building (SB) 235

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10 – 11:00am, or by appointment

## **Textbook**

Galotti, K. M. (2008). *Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory (5th Ed.)*. SAGE Publishing. ISBN: 9781452230320.

## **Course Guidelines and Policies**

### **Disability Modifications**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

### **Class Materials**

What to bring:

1. We will often perform some fundamental, interesting, cognitive experiments. Bring a piece of paper and a pen/pencil with you – Do not miss out on the fun!
2. Bring PSYCHOLOGY scantrons and a #2 pencil with you for exams.

### **Expectations**

***What you can expect from me:***

1. Be prepared to teach the appropriate material in a manner that is organized and clear.
2. Attempt to answer any questions you have.
3. Prepare tests that are a fair evaluation of what you are expected to know.

***What I expect from you:***

1. Be respectful of everybody in the classroom. Do NOT engage in behaviors that will disrupt class, interfere with the learning of other students, or distract me from teaching (e.g., talking, coming late or leaving early consistently, having cell phones on, etc.). A failure to meet this expectation will result in you being dismissed from the class.

2. Ask questions whenever needed. Simply raise your hand if you have something to share. You are welcome to stop by my office at the office hours bringing any questions. Please speak with me privately if you are being disturbed or encounter unanticipated difficulties in class.
3. Comply with the Academic integrity policy and honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).
  - Misconduct during an examination or academic exercise: Copying from another student's paper, consulting unauthorized material, giving information to another student or collaborating with one or more students without authorization, or otherwise failing to abide by the University or instructor's rules governing the examination or academic exercise without the instructor's permission.
  - Unauthorized possession of examination or other course materials: Acquiring or possessing an examination or other course materials without authorization by the instructor.
4. Do not apologize for missing classes. Just be responsible for the consequences. You are expected to collect missing information from your classmates. I will not check your attendance, but attending every class meeting is very important not only for you not to lower your grade but also for you to obtain knowledge on course materials.

## Grading

Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole %.

e.g., if raw score=89.4xxx%, then grade=B; if raw score=89.5xxx%, then grade=A.

(fill in the blank) if your score is 89.49%, then your grade is \_\_\_\_\_, and if 89.50%, then \_\_\_\_\_.

>90% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

<59% = F

Make sure you know that I am not giving you a grade: You are earning your grade.

**Final Grades will be based on the following:**

Component	Percentage	Points	Questions	Note
3 Exams	100% (= 3 × 33.33%)	100 pts × 3	48 each	No make-ups!
Cumulative Final	Potentially 33.33%	100 pts	50	<i>Optional</i>
Extra Credit	4%	4 pts × 3	2 each	On exams
Total	104%	300 pts		

- **Exams: 100% (= 3 × 33.33%)**

There will be 3 exams. Each will cover everything from the *lectures* since the last exam, as the exams will reflect topics learned from class, rather than the book. It will take the entire class period to complete. The questions will consist of true-false, multiple-choice, and matching questions. Exams will be out of 48 questions (allowing 2 questions for extra credit per exam).

- **Final Exam: Potentially 33.33%**

The final exam is optional. This is because a total of 3 exams will constitute your final grade. *One exam will be dropped*; therefore, if you take all of the exams (i.e. including the final), then one

exam will be dropped. Only the highest exam grades will go toward your final grade. The final exam will be comprehensive across all materials covered in the course, consisting of true-false, multiple-choice, and matching questions.

Note: The total % is 104 (which is greater than 100), and one exam may be dropped (if all are taken). Therefore, NO make-ups will be given. The only exception is for absences due to university-sponsored events (i.e., choir, band, sports, etc.): you must have an official letter/document in order to reschedule, and you must reschedule the exam well in advance (if you fail to do so, there will be no make-ups at all).

### **Make-up Exam Policy**

Exams can ONLY be made up with a documented absence for University sanctioned reasons. You will not be considered for a makeup exam for your family reunion, vacation, etc. If for some emergency you must miss an exam, you will be able to take the optional final in lieu of that exam. The document should fully provide the information about the absence and be handed in by the next class meeting of the missing exam.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Although there are some differences across chapters, to a greater or less extent, every chapter basically asks you to understand (1) psychological constructs/cognitive phenomena and tasks (e.g., attention and dichotic listening task for chapter 4); (2) different theories, models, or views to account for the relevant cognitive phenomena (e.g., the modal model of memory for chapters 5 and 6); and (3) various experiments (logic, procedure, method, and results) to investigate the relevant cognitive phenomena.

Ch. 1: Know the definition of cognitive psychology (history, methods, and paradigms)

Ch. 2: Know function of the brain

Ch. 3: Know how we perceive stimuli

Ch. 4: Know what attention is and understand logic of each attention theory and experiments

Ch. 5: Know working memory and understand various experiments

Ch. 6: Know long-term memory and understand various experiments

Ch. 7: Know what general knowledge is and understand logic of each semantic memory model

Ch. 8: Understand how we perceive visual imagery and represent that information

Ch. 10: Understand thinking and problem solving processes

Ch. 11: Know reasoning and decision-making biases

### **Course Schedule**

Schedule of classes: subject to changes by instructor! (NO class M, 2/16)

We will have either a guest lecturer or class will be cancelled on Friday, February 6th (2/6)

Date	Topic	Readings
M –1/26	Memory and Cognition: Introduction	
W/F – 1/28; 1/30	History/Methods/Paradigms	Ch.1
M/W/F – 2/2, 2/4, 2/6	Function of the Brain	Ch.2
M/W/F – 2/9, 2/11, 2/13	Function of the Brain/Perception	Ch. 2, Ch.3
W/F – 2/18, 2/20	Perception	Ch.3
M – 2/23	Perception	Ch.3
W – 2/25	Ch. 1-3 Review/Catch-up	
<b>F– 2/27</b>	<b>Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3)</b>	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
M/W/F – 3/2, 3/4, 3/6	Attention	Ch.4
M/W/F – 3/9, 3/11, 3/13	Working Memory	Ch.5
M/W/F – 3/16, 3/18, 3/20	Long-term Memory	Ch.6
M/W – 3/23, 3/25	Ch. 4-6 Review/Catch-up	
<b>F – 3/27</b>	<b>Exam 2 (Ch. 4-6)</b>	
Spring Break! 3/30 – 4/3	Have Fun!	
M/W/F – 4/6, 4/8, 4/10	Knowledge Representation	Ch.7
M/W/F – 4/13, 4/15, 4/17	Visual Imagery and Representation	Ch.8
M/W/F – 4/20, 4/22, 4/24	Thinking and Problem Solving	Ch.10
M/W/F – 4/27, 4/29, 5/1	Reasoning and Decision Making	Ch.11
M – 5/4	Ch. 7-8, 10-11 Review/Catch-up	
<b>W – 5/6</b>	<b>Exam 3 (Ch. 7-8, 10-11)</b>	
F – 5/8	Review Ch. 1-8, 10-11	
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Ch. 1-8, 10-11</b>