

Fall 9-1-2018

PSYX 280.01: Fundamentals of Memory and Cognition

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Recommended Citation

Jang, Yoohee, "PSYX 280.01: Fundamentals of Memory and Cognition" (2018). *Syllabi*. 8348.
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PSYX 280 – Fundamentals of Memory and Cognition

Fall, 2018

Course Location and Time

STON 304

Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 – 9:20am, **Arrive to class punctually!**

Instructor Information

Instructor: Yoonhee Jang, Ph.D.

Email: yoonhee.jang@umontana.edu

Office: SB 205

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2:30 – 3:30pm or by appointment

Textbook

Galotti, K. M. (2018). *Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory* (6th Ed.). SAGE. ISBN 978-1-5063-5156-8

Note that if you purchased the 4th or 5th edition textbook, consult the instructor.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This course is an introduction to basic concepts of cognitive psychology, such as perception, attention, memory, general knowledge, categorization, thinking, decision making, etc..

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;
2. different theories, models, or views to account for the relevant cognitive phenomena; and
3. various experiments (logic, procedure, method, and results) to investigate the relevant cognitive phenomena.

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 you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Class Materials

Class materials can be found on [Moodle](#).

What to bring:

1. We will often perform some fundamental, interesting, cognitive experiments. Bring a piece of paper and a pen with you; and wear glasses/contacts if needed – Do not miss out on the fun!
2. Bring **PSYCHOLOGY scantrons and #2 pencils** with you **for exams (NOT for quizzes)**.

Expectations

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](#).

e.g., V. Academic Conduct

- **Plagiarism:** Representing another person’s words, ideas, data, or materials as one’s own.
 - **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.

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.

- 90%=< A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79% C
- 60-69% D
- =<59% F

Note that if you wish to change the grade option or to drop the class, you must request the instructor’s signature by 3:30pm Thursday, 12/6/2018 (I will not be available on Friday, 12/7/2018).

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

Final Grades will be based on the following:

Component	%	Note
Quizzes	10	A lowest quiz score will be dropped
Midterm exams	60	A lowest midterm exam score will be dropped
Final	30	Comprehensive
Subtotal	100%	
Experiment participant	(up to) 3	Extra credit: by 8:00am, Thursday, 12/6/2018
Extra credit from quizzes	2	If you take all 6 quizzes, then you will earn 2% of extra credit
Total	105%	

- **Quizzes: 10% (= 5 × 2%)**

There will be 6 unannounced quizzes. A lowest quiz score will be dropped. If there are multiple lowest scores, then only one of them will be dropped. For example, if your quiz scores are 1.5, 1, 1, 1, and 2 (from quizzes 1 to 6), then only one 1 will be dropped, so 1.5, 1, 1, 1, and 2 will be included. Each is worth 2% of your course grade, so the total of all of your quiz scores is worth 10% of your course grade.

Each will cover materials from the textbook and lectures since the last quiz or exam and take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The questions will consist of true-false, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short-answer questions: no need of scantrons.

NOTE that for quizzes, NO make-ups will be given. The **ONLY** exception is for absences due to university-sponsored events (i.e., choir, band, sports, etc.). For this case, you **MUST** have an official letter/document to reschedule, which should be handed in by Thursday, 9/6/2018. If you do not do so, you will NOT be allowed to take a make-up quiz and will receive a score of 0.

- **Midterm Exams: 60% (= 2 × 30%)**

There will be 3 midterm exams. A lowest midterm exam score will be dropped. If there are multiple lowest scores, then only one of them will be dropped (see above, quizzes, if necessary). Each is worth 30% of your course grade, so the total of your midterm exam scores is worth 60% of your course grade.

Each will cover everything from the textbook and lectures since the last exam (refer to the schedule, below). It will take the entire class period to complete. The questions will consist of true-false, multiple-choice, and/or matching questions: Bring your scantrons and #2 pencils.

- **Final Exam: 30%**

The final exam will be comprehensive across all materials covered in the course, consisting of true-false, multiple-choice, and/or matching questions: Bring your scantrons and #2 pencils.

- **Experiment Participation: up to 3% extra credit points**

By choosing to participate in Psychology experiments, you may receive up to 3% extra credit points (one participation point is equivalent to 0.5%). Visit the Psychology Department webpage, and then click on Undergraduate Program → [SONA](#) to learn how to participate in Psychology experiments.

To receive up to 3% extra credit points for this course, you should assign up to 6 participation points you have received from Psychology experiments to PSYX 280 by 8:00am, Thursday, 12/6/2018; otherwise, you will not receive the extra credit points for this course (even if your SONA account holds them).

- **Research Article Summary (instead of experiment participation)**

If you are under 18 or you would not like the experiment participation (as described above), you may read and summarize up to 6 different research articles (one paper is equivalent to 0.5%).

Your summary must be submitted by 8:00am, Thursday, 12/6/2018.

- Only hard copies are allowed: **NO email attachment will be accepted.**
- Choose up to 6 different articles in the references of the textbook (pp. 447-480).
- To get these articles, go to [Mansfield Library webpage](#) and click on Database A-Z list → p tab → [PsycINFO](#).
- At the top of the page, provide the article title, authors, and journal names (also do NOT forget your name, student ID, and course, PSYX 280). Then, provide your

summary, which should contain a minimum of 700 words; and consist of (1) research goals; (2) methods; and (3) results and what you have learned. Do the same things for each of up to 6 research articles.

- Your summary should be written in complete, grammatically correct sentences without spelling errors. Do NOT plagiarize! Students found to have committed plagiarism will NOT be given any points. Additional sanctions, per the student code, may also be enforced.

NOTE that you can choose ONLY one of the two options: You CANNOT choose/mix both to earn up to 3% extra credit (i.e., EITHER earning up to 6 experiment credit points OR summarizing up to 6 research articles). There will be NO opportunity to make up failing participation/summary beyond that time/date.

- **Extra credit from quizzes: 2% extra credit points**

If you take all 6 quizzes, then you will earn 2% extra credit points of your course grade, regardless of your quiz scores.

Make-up Exam Policy

Exams can ONLY be made up with a documented absence for University sanctioned reasons (such as illness and family emergency): 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 should contact the instructor via email BEFORE the test takes place. If you fail to do so, you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam and will receive a score of 0. The document (only original hard copies accepted) should fully provide the information about the absence and be handed in by the next class meeting of the missing exam.

Course Schedule

Schedule of classes: **subject to changes by instructor!** (NO classes on 11/15 & 11/20)

Date	Topic	Chapters
Tu; 8/28	Introduction	
Th; 8/30	History, Methods, and Paradigms	Ch.1
Tu – Th; 9/4 – 9/6	Function of the Brain	Ch.2
Tu – Th; 9/11 – 9/13	Perception	Ch.3
Tu – Tu; 9/18 – 9/25	Attention	Ch.4
Th; 9/27	Exam 1 (Ch.1-4)	
Tu – Tu; 10/2 – 10/9	Sensory, Short-term, and Working Memory	Ch.5
Th – Tu; 10/11 – 10/16	Long-term Memory	Ch.6
Th – Tu; 10/18 – 10/23	Everyday Memory	Ch.7
Th; 10/25	Exam 2 (Ch.5-7)	
Tu – Th; 10/30 – 11/1	General Knowledge and Concepts	Ch.8
Th – Tu; 11/8 – 11/13	Visual imagery	Ch.9
Tu – Th; 11/27 – 11/29	Decision making	Ch.12
Tu; 12/4	Exam 3 (Ch.8-9, and 12)	
Th; 12/6	Review	
Tuesday 12/11; 10:10 – 12:10	Final exam (Ch.1-9, and 12)	