

PSYC 221 Course Syllabus

Key Dates	
tuitionF	Tuition due
wk1Fmon	Classes start
wk2Ffri	Last day to add courses Last day to drop courses without financial penalty
wk8Ffri	Last day to drop courses without academic penalty
wk9Ftue	Last day to change exam centre location Last day to submit accommodations to CDS
wk12Ffri	Classes end
examF	Examinations

Course Description

Cognitive psychology is the study of the mind. By employing the scientific method, cognitive psychologists develop an understanding of the processes involved in all aspects of thinking, including attention, perception, memory, reasoning, language, and problem-solving. With the human brain considered to be the most complex object known to exist, and maybe the most powerful learning system known to exist, the study of the thinking processes it produces is immensely challenging. With this complexity and the challenge of using our own thinking to study human thinking, cognitive psychology represents a rich and fascinating research domain.

Course Materials

- Goldstein, E. B. (2015). Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 4th Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1285763880
- Francis, G. (2015). COGLAB 5. Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 9781285461083

Timeline

The link to the Course Timeline is located in the navigation bar below the course banner. It shows all relevant course dates, including assessments, as well as links to other important course information. As dates may change, you should consult the Timeline each time you login to the course.

If there are discrepancies between dates in the course onQ site, the Timeline will be considered accurate.

All times are in Kingston Local Time.

Suggested Time Commitment

Students can expect to spend, on average, about 10-12 hours per week completing relevant readings, assignments, and course activities.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify and explain classic and current issues within cognitive psychology (including but not limited to perception, attention, memory, knowledge, language, problem solving, and reasoning and decision making)
- Identify and explain standard methodological approaches used in the study of human cognition and cognitive neuroscience.
- Engage in critical reading of empirical evidence used to examine theories of cognition.
- Explain how experimental findings inform theories of cognition.
- Collaborate with peers to analyze experimental designs and theories and effectively communicate the results.

Assessments

Assessments	Weights	Alignment to Learning Outcomes
Discussions (4 total)	16%	1,2,5
Quizzes (highest 8 of 10)	16%	1,2
Cognitive Lab Assignments (highest 4 out of 5)	24%	1,2,3,4,5
Final Exam (proctored)* * You must pass the final exam to pass the course	44%	1,2,3,4

Assessments and Activities Overview

Online Quizzes

There are 10 quizzes. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions based on the weekly material from weekly videos and textbook readings. Your final grade will be based on your highest 8 quizzes.

Online Discussions

- On odd-numbered weeks, you will complete a discussion assignment (except for Week 11).
- **Week 1:**

- You will participate in an unmarked discussion assignment meant to familiarize you with the discussion forum.

- **Weeks 3, 5, 7, and 9:**

- You will be randomly assigned to small groups and have a TA or the instructor assigned to your group to facilitate your discussion. There will be three components to each discussion assignment:
 - **Initial post:** Each student will first provide a response to the discussion question,
 - **Participation:** Each student will participate in discussion forum by responding to other students' posts.
 - **Final submission:** Your discussion group will provide a single final submission to the dropbox.
- You will be marked on the quality of your initial post, your contribution to the discussion forum, and the quality of the group's final submission to the dropbox.
- Each discussion will be worth 10 points (2 points for your individual initial post, 2 points for participating in the discussion forum, and 6 points for a group final submission).
- The initial post must be completed by the deadline as stated in the course timeline, otherwise you will receive a grade of zero on the initial post. If you do not complete the individual initial post and don't participate in the discussion forum, then you will also get zero on the group final submission.
- This is a group report, and everyone in the group should contribute in a timely and meaningful manner. In an effort to fairly reward students who have contributed to the group report and to minimize the rewarding of students who do not contribute to the group report, we ask each group member to fill out a peer assessment. We treat these assessments as recommendations such that the peer assessments together with the forum contributions can be used to modify the final mark for each student on the group report. For example, if your group received a mark of 5 out of 6 on a group report, but the peer assessments and forum contributions indicate that you did not contribute at all to the group report, then you would get 0 out of 6 on the group report.
- Your final discussion grade will be based on all 4 discussions.

Cognitive Lab Assignments

- On even-numbered weeks, you will complete a cognitive lab assignment.
- **During Week 2:**
 - You will participate in an unmarked cognitive lab assignment meant to familiarize you with the structure of the cognitive labs.
- **Weeks 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12:**
 - You will complete a cognitive lab, and submit a written assignment (maximum 2 pages in length). Each written assignment is designed to demonstrate your understanding of that week's cognitive lab.
 - Each cognitive lab will be worth 10 points (rubric provided for each individual lab)

- Your final cognitive lab will be based on your best 4 cognitive labs.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is three hours in length and includes multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the material from the entire term. The specific date for the final exam will be announced later in the term.

Late Policy

- The initial discussion post must be completed by the deadline as stated in the course timeline, otherwise you will receive a grade of zero on the initial post.
- Participation in the forum for the discussion assignments must be completed within the open discussion period as outlined in the course timeline, otherwise the participation grade will be assigned a zero.
- Late group final discussion submissions will be penalized 10% per day late including weekend days.
- Online discussions must be completed within the open discussion period of 5 days, otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.
- Online quizzes must be completed during the 48-hour testing window, otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.
- Late cognitive lab assignments will be penalized 10% per day late including weekend days.

Grading

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76

B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Contacting the Teaching Team

The teaching team contact information is located on the Homepage of the course (see “Teaching Team”).

For general questions about the course, please post to the Questions discussion forum topic, (located in the upper right corner of the homepage of the course). Feel free to help answer your peers’ questions on this forum. Most questions are answered within 24 hours.

Please use your Queen’s email for inquires that are more personal in nature, or for issues such as academic accommodations, marking, or concerns of a personal nature. If you need to have a more detailed conversation, please schedule a virtual office meeting with your instructor.

Course Feedback

At various points during the course, students will be asked to take part in a variety of feedback activities (such as questionnaires and exit tickets).

All surveys are anonymous, and directly related to activities, assessments, and other course material. Providing insights into your experiences and understanding of course material enables the teaching team to consider necessary improvements or adjustments tot he course.

Netiquette

In an online course you often communicate with your peers and teaching team through electronic communication. You are expected to use the utmost respect in your dealings with your colleagues or when participating in activities, discussions and online communication.

Here is a list of netiquette guidelines. Please read them carefully and use them to guide your communication in this course and beyond.

1. Make a personal commitment to learn about, understand, and support your peers.
2. Assume the best of others and expect the best of them.
3. Acknowledge the impact of oppression on the lives of other people and make sure your writing is respectful and inclusive.
4. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings.
5. Pay close attention to what your peers write before you respond. Think through and re-read your writings before you post or send them to others.
6. It's ok to disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
7. Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas and challenge others with the intent of facilitating growth. Do not demean or embarrass others.
8. Encourage others to develop and share their ideas.

Queen's Email

The university communicates with students via Queen's email. Please check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss important information related to your course.

Copyright

The material on this website is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in PSYC 221. The material on this website may be downloaded for a registered student's personal use, but shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in PSYC 221. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Third Party Policy

This course makes use of Coglab for some activities. Be aware that by logging into the site, you will be leaving onQ, and accessing the Coglab website. Your independent use of that site, *beyond what is required for the course (for example, purchasing the company's products)*, is subject to Cengage Learning's terms of use and privacy policy. You are encouraged to review these documents, using the link(s) below, before using the site.

<https://coglab.cengage.com/info/privacy.shtml>

Accessibility/Accommodations

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities.

If you are a student with a disability and think you may require accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/>.

Students with course accommodations should contact CDS immediately following registration to inform them of any accommodations to their timed assessments and/or final exam(s).

Academic Considerations for Students in Extenuating Circumstances

The [Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances](#) was approved in April, 2017. Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and which have a direct and substantial impact on their ability to meet essential academic requirements. The Faculty of Arts and Science is developing a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances, which will be posted on the Faculty of Arts and Science website in Fall, 2017.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the six core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage (see www.academicintegrity.org).

These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-calendar>), and from the instructor of this course. For current policy updates visit: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity>.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Computer Requirements

Microsoft Windows Client Vista/Windows 7/Windows 8 Intel Core 2 Duo processor 2GB RAM	Supported Browsers Firefox (latest version) Safari (latest version on 64-bit Intel processors only)
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Soundcard with speakers and microphone or preferably a headset Webcam Mac Client OS X 10.8 or higher Intel i5 processor 2 GB RAM Internal, USB or external iSight microphone or preferably a headset Webcam	Java Latest version
	Internet Connection Wired high speed access: Cable or better (wifi is not recommended)
	Media Player Flash (latest version)
	Adobe Reader Latest Version

Students Travelling Overseas

Students who will be out of Canada for any duration of the term should be advised that, in the past, students overseas have been blocked from accessing certain websites relevant to their courses, as well as onQ. If your course in requires the completion of online quizzes or exams, this may pose an impediment to you successfully completing the course. We do not make accommodations based on the lack of reliable Internet access. It is your responsibility to make sure that you will have adequate high speed Internet coverage for the entirety of the term.