

Cognitive Psychology
Psychology 208-001

**Syllabus
Spring 2012**

Location: Founders Hall, Rm. 0207
Time: 12-1:15; Mon and Wed
Instructor: Dr. Thad Meeks

Office: Alumni Hall, Rm. 0136
Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 (M-Th) and by appt.
Email: jmeeks@siue.edu

Required Course Materials:

Goldstein, E.B. (2011). *Cognitive psychology: Connecting mind, research, and everyday experience* (3rd ed.). Thompson-Wadsworth.

Overview. This course is a survey of cognitive psychology. You should have several goals in taking this course, and it will be my responsibility as the instructor to help you achieve them. First, you should learn the important findings in contemporary cognition and the conceptual frameworks used to think about them. Second, you should learn how those findings and knowledge are acquired; that is, how cognitive research is conducted. Third, you should begin to think more critically about what you read and hear with the specific aim of proposing new research in the various subdisciplines of cognitive psychology. Lastly, you should be able to take the principles learned in this class and apply them to what you experience on a daily basis.

To these ends, you will participate in several modes of learning: read a textbook, listen to lectures, write an APA proposal, and participate in class discussions. For those pursuing careers as cognitive psychologists, you will receive more in-depth information in specialized classes and seminars (e.g., perception, neuropsychology, human learning and memory). There will be several informal discussions throughout the semester about the topics we cover. I hope to provide you with the foundational principles in cognitive psychology so that you may put the more contemporary findings in perspective.

Formal requirements and grading. There will be three closed-book, closed-note exams (the dates can be found on the class schedule). The first two exams will count 22.5% apiece (225 points each). The last exam (final exam) will have a small cumulative part. The final exam will be worth 25% (250 points). The exams will cover material presented in lectures and in the book. Note that some material will come from both book and lecture, but some will come from lecture only and some will come from book only. I will announce this distribution in class. I generally try to have a review before each test and I will announce the date and time of these in class. I will also keep a running study guide that I will update shortly after each class. That way you can be sure you are grasping the important concepts and can contact me if you are not (you can email, come to my office, or call). **If you miss an exam for any reason, your opportunity to make up the missed exam will be during the final exam session at the end of the semester (immediately after you complete the last exam). However, you must inform me in advance (at least 24 hours) if you intend to make up an exam during the final exam period. Only documented emergencies (e.g., medical, family) will be considered after this 24-hour window.** Note that this may not be the same exam taken during the regular class period, but will be of equal difficulty. If you miss the last exam for any reason not previously approved, you will earn a zero on the final. Please note that the last exam will be given on the date scheduled by the university for final exams, and you may not take the last exam at any other time without a pre-approved excuse.

There will also be 3 quizzes during the course of the semester which will cover previous lectures and readings (the dates and material covered for each quiz can be found on the class schedule). You will have to be present in class to take these quizzes unless the absence is excused. **The quizzes will be given**

during the first 5 minutes of class so make sure you are on time. These quizzes will help you in two key ways. First, it will help motivate you not to wait until the last minute to begin studying. Second, research in memory has demonstrated that taking frequent quizzes is a better strategy than study alone (McDaniel, Andersen, Derbish, & Morrisette, 2007). Each quiz will be worth 25 points each for a total of 75 points (7.5% of your final grade).

You will also write an APA style proposal. I have a separate handout that has all the details on the paper. This assignment is worth 225 points and will be due on March 28th. Late proposals will have 20% deducted for each 24 hr increment they are late. In other words, after an assignment is collected, it will be docked 20% until 12 pm the next day (when it will be docked 40%, etc.). If you think you will be late turning in your assignment, then you should have the department secretary or student worker date and sign it and put it in my mailbox. You should also have it signed and dated before turning it in late. If you do not, we will assume it was turned in when we find it, and deduct accordingly. **NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED ELECTRONICALLY (i.e., via email) UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY ME.**

Extra Credit: There will be an opportunity for a *small amount* of extra credit. At the end of a limited number of classes, I will ask you to do a class activity for extra credit. You will have to pay attention in class to receive the full amount of extra credit. Please remember that extra credit is always optional, and is awarded in terms of points on top of your final point total. Please do not count on this to rescue you from a bad grade. The extra credit will only get you so far.

The breakdown of grading is as follows:

Exam 1	225 points	22.5%
Exam 2	225 points	22.5%
Exam 3 (Final)	250 points	25%
Quizzes	75 points	7.5%
APA Proposal	225 points	22.5%
Total	1000 points	100%

The official letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Points Equivalent
A	90%-100%	896-1000
B	80%-89%	796-895
C	70%-79%	696-795
D	60%-69%	596-695
F	<60	0-595

Please note that a strict policy will be adopted regarding extensions, late papers, missed exams and quizzes, etc.: all will be penalized unless a clear and pressing case can be made for medical reasons. Moreover, you may not submit work for this course that has been submitted, or is to be submitted, for credit in another course (some exceptions to this rule exist and you should consult the instructor(s) if you have any doubt).

Grading problems: If you feel there has been an error in working out calculating your grade please let me know as soon as possible. Calculate your grade as described above and specify the reason for your concern when contacting me. I want you to get every point you have earned. If you are unhappy with your

final grade but agree that it has been calculated correctly as described above, please don't ask for a better grade, or extra opportunities to make a better grade, as a "favor" at the end of the semester. The answer to such unfair requests must always be "no".

Attendance: Although I will not explicitly take attendance, I strongly recommend coming to class. There will often be material presented in class that is not presented equivalently in the book. I will post notes on Blackboard but I suggest you do not rely on those. The notes on Blackboard will have most of the material, but will have some key words/concepts missing. I will fill in these concepts in class. Also, absences could result in deductions for your assignments (quizzes, etc.). Absences **MUST** be accompanied by a documented excuse or must be explained well in advance to the professor to avoid penalty for an assignment. **I will not send the completed notes unless you have an excused absence.**

Blackboard: I will utilize Blackboard for several different purposes. The syllabus will be posted as well as the lecture at least the night before the relevant class period. I will also post assignments, study and review material and material related to the proposal as well. I will keep a running lecture concept sheet. This will be updated at least by the day after every class and will serve two purposes. First, you can use it after each class period to make sure you understand the key concepts from that lecture. Second, you can use it as a study guide for each exam. The lecture concept sheet is only intended as a guide for the lecture material and will not cover all book material. In addition, I will post grades and any relevant announcements. **The bottom line is that you should check Blackboard frequently.**

Accommodations for Disabilities: Notify the professor immediately of any needed accommodations for documented disabilities at the beginning of the course. If you are expecting accommodations at any time in this class, you must speak Disability Support Services in the Student Success Center in Rm 1270 (650-3726) before you need accommodations. Also, According to SIUE safety and procedures policies, students with disabilities have the option of developing a written plan for evacuation in the unlikely event of an emergency that requires evacuation. If any student with a disability would like to develop a written evacuation plan for this class, please contact the instructor.

The Psychology Department's Policy on Incomplete Grades: It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from a course by the dates set by the University if the student is not intending to complete the course. Students who do not withdraw and have not completed the course will receive an F. Only under special circumstances a faculty member may agree to give a student an Incomplete (INC) grade in order to allow the student to complete the remaining work for the course not later than the end of the following semester. An INC is never automatic but must be approved by the professor. If a professor agrees to give a student an INC grade, the professor and the student will fill out a form (Memorandum of Incomplete Grade) indicating why an INC is being given. One copy of the completed form will be given to the student, one copy will be given to the professor, and the Department of Psychology secretary will keep one copy. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum of Incomplete Grade form, the grade will be changed from INC to F.

The Psychology Department's Policy on Course Evaluations: Students will not be eligible to take the final exam in this course unless they first complete a course evaluation. The procedure for completing the confidential, anonymous and brief course evaluation online will be described toward the end of the semester. The evaluation allows students to print a proof-of-completion page (after responses are electronically submitted) and this page should be presented to your professor before the final exam.

The Psychology Department's Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording,

sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

SIUE Statement on Diversity: All societies and peoples have contributed to the rich mix of contemporary humanity. In order to achieve domestic and international peace, social justice, and the development of full human potential, we must build on this diversity. SIUE nurtures an open, harmonious, and hospitable climate that facilitates learning and work. Each member of the University is responsible for contributing to such a campus environment.

SIUE Nondiscrimination Policy: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) is a public comprehensive University committed to creating and maintaining a diverse community in which students, faculty, and staff can learn and work together in an environment free of discrimination and free from any form of illegal harassment. Such actions violate the dignity of the individual and the integrity of the University as an institution of learning. SIUE prohibits discrimination against employees, applicants for employment and students on the basis of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Discrimination in any form will not be tolerated; management and supervisory personnel, at all levels, are responsible for taking reasonable and necessary action to prevent discrimination.

Office Hours: I have set office hours listed at the top of the syllabus. However, if you cannot meet at that time, simply email or come talk to me and we can arrange another time.

Cell Phones: Please be respectful and turn them off or on silent. It is only annoying for everyone else and embarrassing for you. In general, please be courteous to everyone in class.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructors may be necessary.

Day #	Date	Topic	Readings	Other Notes
1	Jan 9	Introduction to Class	Syllabus	
2	Jan 11	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Ch 1	
	Jan 16	No Class	No Class	
3	Jan 18	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Ch 1	
4	Jan 23	APA Proposal Discussion	Blackboard Material	
5	Jan 25	Cognition and the Brain: Basic Principles	Ch 2	
6	Jan 30	Cognition and the Brain: Basic Principles	Ch 2	
7	Feb 1	Perception	Ch 3	Quiz #1 (Ch 1 - 2)

8	Feb 6	Perception	Ch 3	
9	Feb 8	Attention	Ch 4	
10	Feb 13	Attention	Ch 4	
11	Feb 15	Exam #1 (Ch 1 - 4)	Exam #1 (Ch 1 - 4)	Exam #1 (Ch 1 - 4)
12	Feb 20	Short-Term and Working Memory	Ch 5	
13	Feb 22	Short-Term and Working Memory	Ch 5	
14	Feb 27	Long-Term Memory: Structure	Ch 6	
15	Feb 29	Long-Term Memory: Structure/ Long-Term Memory: Encoding and Retrieval	Ch 7	Quiz #2 (Ch 5 - 6)
	Mar 5	No Class	No Class	No Class
	Mar 7	No Class	No Class	No Class
16	Mar 12	Long-Term Memory: Encoding and Retrieval	Ch 7	
17	Mar 14	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors	Ch 8	
18	Mar 19	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors	Ch 8	
19	Mar 21	Knowledge	Ch 9	
20	Mar 26	Knowledge	Ch 9	
21	Mar 28	Exam #2 (Ch 5 - 9)	Exam #2 (Ch 5 - 9)	Exam #2 (Ch 5 - 9)
22	Apr 2	Visual Imagery	Ch 10	
23	Apr 4	Visual Imagery	Ch 10	APA Proposal Due in Class
24	Apr 9	Language	Ch 11	
25	Apr 11	Language	Ch 11	
26	Apr 16	Problem Solving	Ch 12	Quiz #3 (Ch 10 - 11)
27	Apr 18	Problem Solving	Ch 12	
28	Apr 23	Reasoning and Decision Making	Ch 13	
29	Apr 25	Reasoning and Decision Making	Ch 13	
30	May 3rd	Final Exam (10 – 11:40)	Final Exam (10 – 11:40)	Final Exam (10 – 11:40)