Syllabus

PSYC 4315.001 – COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: R 5:30-8:15
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TEXTBOOK: Cognition, 8th Edition by Margaret W. Matlin

Note: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Course Catalog Description

An examination of the cognitive processes involved in human mentation. Includes the study of attention, perceptual processes, memory, knowledge representation, language, decision making and problem solving. Recommended: Prior completion of PSYC 1301 or equivalent.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the historical development of cognitive psychology (remembering).
2. Recognize and explain major terms and concepts in cognitive psychology (understanding).
3. Explain how different methods of cognitive research can be used as tools to understand mental processes.
4. Describe the working of basic cognitive functions from an information processing perspective.
5. Discuss the classic experimental findings relating to various cognitive processes such as attention and consciousness, perception, memory, imagery, language, thinking, problem solving and creativity, decision making, and metacognition.
6. For the above processes, compare and contrast alternative theories or approaches in terms of their underlying processes and performance predictions.
7. Generate and explain examples that demonstrate or test theories or concepts within various cognitive domains.
8. Apply theories or findings to real world situations and to one’s own cognitive processes.

Course Policies
The Online Lectures. Class time is never long enough to lecture ALL the material as well as engage in activities and demonstrations designed to illustrate the topics. Because the latter can generally only occur in class (unless I assign lots of online activities), you should be aware that you are responsible for the content of chapters whether each topic is talked about in class or not. If you wish to hear a lecture over any part of the chapter, you can access the full taped lectures (in the form of voice-overs on each of the powerpoint slides) available in the Canvas modules.

There are two versions of lecture PowerPoints available to you. One version which contains voice-over lecture content for each slide is split into multiple short lectures under the heading of “Voice-over Lecture slides.” A knowledge of cognitive psychology suggests several changes to the usual lecture structure. Research in Cognitive Psychology tells us that people have trouble comprehending multiple and competing sources of information simultaneously (see Chapter 2). Thus, the lecture slides used in the taped lectures have minimal written information, as the written word tends to compete with the lecture, or spoken information. They will contain visual images, however, that may help to make the information more distinct and memorable (see Chapters 5 and 6). The more associations you form to material you are learning, the more neural pathways there will be which give you later access to it (see Chapter 8). You can and should take advantage of these voice-overs to take careful notes that correspond closely to the textbook material as well as material from other sources which may be tested on exams. This is essentially the same content that would be delivered if in class. Although smaller amounts may be delivered in class, you should make time to hear the rest online. However, because writing down every word in a lecture can be very time consuming, I am also making available the outline version of each chapter provided by the publisher. If you are not an A+ student who can simply read the book, understand and remember its content, you should consider these online lectures mandatory rather than optional. The voice-overs are also available in podcast form for those who wish to listen while driving and such.

A second version of the Powerpoint lecture will correspond more closely to the version you will see in class. For those who like to print out the lecture slides to take notes on, this is the version for you.

Classtime. Attendance and participation in each class period is also mandatory. We will use this time to elaborate certain topics, and carry out various activities and demonstrations designed to make the material more concrete and relatable, and thus more memorable. Attendance will be taken each day, and participation when present is assumed except in those cases where a student fails to participate or does so only partially. The occasional online assignment will also contribute to participation grades. Students can miss up to two (2) days attendance with no penalty to their Class Participation grade. There will be no opportunities to make-up missed Class Participation credit, regardless of the reason, so use your freebies wisely. I highly recommend saving up your freebies for unforeseen circumstances that may indeed arise. Students do not need to submit any documentation for missed days of lectures, the first two missed days will simply be dropped, and all subsequent missed days will result in a deduction, regardless of the reason. Students who miss a class meeting(s) for any reason or miss portions of classes due to tardiness or early departure will still be held accountable for all of the material that is covered during those sessions, including materials presented in lecture that are not in the book. If you miss a
Thought/Reaction Assignments: Each week there will be one or more videos or articles related to chapter content for you to read or watch. Some are required, others recommended. For each test period, there will be one of these assigned each week for which you will be required to respond to a set of thought questions. The Thought/Reaction assignment will be due for upload by Sunday night before each exam for each chapter of that test period.

Exams: Exams will include information from lectures, textbook, assigned videos, and classroom activities. Reading the textbook is highly recommended as it allows presented material to be placed in proper context, so that learned constructs can be fully mastered and applied. Taking notes on the Ppt voice-overs is also highly recommended to prepare for exams.

Make-Up Exam: If a student needs to make up either of the first two exams, they will take an alternative version during the final exam week. Students should avoid the need for a make-up exam if at all possible.

Evaluation and Grading:

Three exams will be worth 25% each for a total of 75% of the course grade. Combined thought/reaction assignments will comprise another 15%, and Attendance and Participation combined will be worth 10% of the course grade.

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%  * A grade of C or better is required to satisfy the degree requirements for psychology majors/minors
D = 60-69%
F= < 60%

Extra Credit in this class

My philosophy and practice regarding extra credit in this and other courses: There is a limit to how much I can let any extra credit affect the grade outcome. By giving the student the grade
they earned, I am telling the world what I think the student’s competency level is with the subject matter. Obviously, the extra credit work available here does not actually affect your knowledge of the topic. But, since grades aren’t a perfect measure, I allow extra credit points to adjust upward, but only within the confidence limit of the actual grade. So EC can boost a grade up a letter, but only when the person is within a couple points of that higher grade.

The actual “rate of exchange” is that a point earned (usually with an hour of EC activity) results in half a point being applied to the exam average. So four hours of EC activity results in every exam being two points higher than what you actually made on those exams. If the exams are 60% of the course grade, that four hours of credit affects the course grade by 1.2 grade points. If a person has a course average of 88.4, that’s enough to boost it to an A (when rounded up).

To earn extra credit, you may participate as a “client” in the counselor training clinic (though we have not yet been contacted by them), through the SONA system, in which you participate as a subject in the research studies conducted by staff and students in the psychology department (uttplayer.sona-systems.com), or other instructor approved experience (such as attending the Psi Chi conference held each April).

Grade Replacement: Please be aware that if you are retaking the class to earn a higher grade, you must file for grade replacement at the beginning of the semester.

Schedule of Topics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Ch 1 History</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Ch 3 Perception II</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Ch 4 Working Memory</td>
<td>April  5</td>
<td>Ch 9 Language Comp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Ch 10 Language Production</td>
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<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Ch 5 LTM Encoding</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Ch 11 Problem Solving</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Ch 6 Memory strats</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Ch 12 Decision Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Ch 7 Imagery</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Connectivity: Phones should be turned off when in class. If you use a laptop, tablet, or other device which connects to the internet, it should be employed only if you are directed to do so.
by the instructor. Use of such devices is a distraction to other students in the class and signals a disrespect of the course and instructor. You may be asked to leave class if you are surfing, using social media, texting, or are otherwise disengaged from class activities.

**Additional Course Policies & Tips**

- Read the book. LISTEN TO THE LECTURES!
- If you have a question and there is good reason to believe the answer is in this syllabus document, do not email me; check the syllabus first. If you can't find the information, or do not understand, then contact me. If you email me to ask something like 'When is Exam 2?' I will respond “Check the syllabus.
- Always feel welcome to talk to me before/after class if you have a question/issue/concern. If you need my full attention, please wait until I have finished shutting programs down and logging off the classroom computer. I will likely ask you to email me as well, so we both have documentation of your concern and my response so there is no confusion later. If you talk to me in the classroom or hallway, I will ask that you send an email, as I won't be able to recall the details of your message or which student gave it to me.
- Read the book. Review what you have read. LISTEN TO THE LECTURES!
- When you study, do not treat my powerpoints as the end-all be-all of course material. Powerpoints are there to facilitate the lecture, not deliver the entire course content. The ppt lectures with voice-overs will cover about 90% of the material. Videos, class activities and demonstrations will also provide material to be tested. I will do my best to let you know if there are sections of the chapters covered that you do not need to study.
- When taking exams, you can leave when you turn in your exam. If you arrive late to an exam you can still take it, IF no one else has already turned in their exam. If someone else has already turned in their exam, you cannot take the exam and will receive a zero. You have only the class period indicated for the exam, so arriving late means having less time to complete it.
- Read the book, review what you have read, and test yourself on the material.
- Grades and general feedback for the Exams will be given during our next class period. For test security purposes, you will not receive the test itself back. You are however welcome to come to my office and look over your exams during my office hours if you would like.

LISTEN TO THE LECTURES and take notes!

- I am human, I may occasionally make a mistake when grading. I may add up points wrong. I may enter the grade wrong into the grade book. If you feel any of these happened, PLEASE come talk to me.
- I curve exam grades so that the highest grade is 100%. If someone earns 100% it is unlikely there will be a curve.
- Read the book! LISTEN TO THE LECTURES!

**University Policies**

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Tyler at Texas offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a diagnosis such as a
learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking
an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and,
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

(ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

(iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

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College of Education and Psychology Vision and Mission and Program Standards

Vision

The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry,
and public service. The College prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century, to make significant contributions to local and global communities, and to work toward individual and cultural equity.

Mission

The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application, understanding and communication; and provides leadership and service. Additionally, the College is committed to affirming and promoting global perspectives, cultural diversity, and respect for individual differences as a means of enhancing learning, service, and scholarship.