

**Introduction to Cognition
Psychology 2135b-530**

Winter 2015

Class Meetings

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 AM – 2:30 PM in St. James room 302

Course Instructor

Dr. Jennifer Sutton

Office: St. James portable room P2

Email: jennifer.sutton@uwo.ca

Tele: 519-432-8353 ext 28120

Office Hours: TBA

Required Materials:

1. Galotti, K. M., Fernandes, M. A., Fugelsang, J., & Stolz, J. A. (2010). *Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory, First Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Nelson.

This text has been used a number of times across the UWO system and should be available both in the UWO bookstore and used.

2. Online subscription to CogLab 5 research participation software, via an access code included with the textbook when purchased at the UWO bookstore. CogLab access may also be purchased on its own at the Nelson website

<http://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/isbn/9781285461083>

Course Website

Registered students will see the course listed on their My Owl page. Lecture slides will be posted here the day/night before class.

Course Description and Information

An introduction to empirical, computational, and theoretical approaches to the study of human cognitive processes. The topics surveyed will include: perception, attention, memory, concepts, language and problem-solving. The course will show how these diverse psychological processes are related to and influence one another.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in a 1000 level Psychology course

Course learning objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the methods used to investigate cognitive processes by researchers in psychology

- Explain how experimental methods in cognitive psychology can be used to infer mental processing
- Relate individual cognitive processes to each other and the broader function of thinking
- Apply basic research findings in cognitive psychology to everyday life

Evaluation

- Exam 1 (30%) in class on February 3
- Exam 2 (30%) in class on March 12
- Exam 3 (30%) in the April finals period
- CogLab participation (10%) throughout the semester

Exams

The exams are not cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions drawn from material in the text and lectures. Exams 1 and 2 will take place during class time. Exam 3 will be 2 hours long but will take place during the April exam period. Note that some chapters are not listed on the schedule below, and you will not be responsible for the material in them.

Also note that make-up exams may consist, in part or exclusively, of essay, short-answer, fill-in-the-blank, and/or multiple-choice items.

CogLab participation

CogLab is an online suite of sample experiments based on research in cognitive psychology. As such, it offers hands-on experience with the methods scientists use to test cognitive processes. Understanding how behavioural responses can be used to interpret mental processes is a fundamental objective of this course, and this will allow students to directly experience this process.

Information about how to log in to the CogLab site will be provided in class. When you participate in an experiment, your data will be coded anonymously and aggregated with the rest of our class. That aggregated data will then be presented in class to illustrate various cognitive phenomena. I will be able to track whether you have participated in each experiment in order to assign credit appropriately.

Each experiment takes from 15 – 30 minutes to complete. To replicate real research conditions as much as possible, try to complete the experiments in a quiet area with no interruptions. Undivided attention is important for the outcome of most of the experiments.

- In order to have data from the class to include in the appropriate lecture, each experiment has a deadline a few days before the pertinent lecture. **To earn credit for participating in an experiment (1% for each experiment for a maximum of 10%), you must complete the experiment before the deadline.** There are 11 experiments listed but you will only gain credit for participating in 10. Experiments may be completed at any time before the deadline, and may be completed after the deadline, although no credit will be earned in the latter case. Since participation is time-sensitive, no make-ups will be offered.

COURSE SCHEDULE – * tentative and subject to change*, see Owl and announcements in class for updates

Day	Date	Topic	Text	CogLab Experiment Discussed	CogLab participation deadline for credit
Tues	Jan 6	Welcome/History	1	--	
Thurs	Jan 8	Cognitive Neuroscience	2	--	
Tues	Jan 13			<i>Brain Asymmetry</i>	Fri, Jan 9, 5pm
Thurs	Jan 15	Sensation and Perception	3	<i>Muller-Lyer</i>	Tues, Jan 14, 5pm
Tues	Jan 20	Object perception/Pattern recognition		--	
Thurs	Jan 22			--	
Tues	Jan 27	Attention	4	<i>Stroop</i>	Fri, Jan 23, 5pm
Thurs	Jan 29			<i>Change Detection</i>	Tues, Jan 27, 5pm
Tues	Feb 3	Exam 1 (30%) Chapters 1 – 4 + lectures			
Thurs	Feb 5	Memory: Structures	5, 6	--	
Tues	Feb 10	Memory: Processes 1		<i>Memory Span</i>	Fri, Feb 6, 5pm
Thurs	Feb 12	No class today; instead, complete three CogLab experiments: <i>Serial Position</i> , <i>False Memory</i> , and <i>Sternberg Search</i> . All three due Monday Feb 23 at noon.			
Feb 17 & 19: break week					
Tues	Feb 24	Memory: Processes 2	5, 6	<i>Sternberg Search</i>	Mon Feb 23, noon
Thurs	Feb 26	Memory: Forgetting & Distortions		<i>Serial Position & False Memory</i>	Mon Feb 23, noon
Tues	Mar 3	Exceptional memory		--	
Thurs	Mar 5	Semantic memory	6	--	
Tues	Mar 10	Consciousness	--	--	
Thurs	Mar 12	Exam 2 (30%) Chapters 5 & 6 + lectures			
Tues	Mar 17	Visual Imagery	8	<i>Mental Rotation</i>	Fri, Mar 13, 5pm
Thurs	Mar 19	Spatial Cognition	8	--	
Tues	Mar 24	Language	9	<i>Categorical Perception - Discrimination</i>	Fri, Mar 20, 5pm
Thurs	Mar 26			--	
Tues	Mar 31	Thinking: problem solving, reasoning, making decisions	10,11	<i>Typical Reasoning</i>	Fri, Mar 27, 5pm
Thurs	Apr 2			--	
Tues	Apr 7	Special topic: Sleep and Cognition /Course wrap-up	--	--	
Finals Period	Exam 3 (30%) Chapters 8 – 11 + lectures				

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.