

PSYCHOLOGY 2580 - Section A3
COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
Grande Prairie Regional College
Winter 2000

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 to 2:20 p.m.
Or by appointment

Texts: Cognitive Psychology (5th Edition) by Robert Solso

Course Content: The specific topics covered in this course are: Cognitive Neuroscience, Perception, Pattern Recognition, Attention, Consciousness, Memory, General Knowledge, Imagery, Language, Decision Making, Problem solving, Creativity, Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence.

Course Objectives: This course is an extensive review of the study of Cognitive Psychology. Students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the range of human thought processes and will also develop critical and analytical thinking skills.

Requirements: Evaluations will be based on two exams and a paper as follows:

Exam #1	25%	February 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Exam #2	25%	March 9	Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Paper	25%	March 21	
Final Exam	25%	TBA	Chapters 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17

Please note that the exam dates listed on this handout are tentative and are subject to change. All exams will be held in the lecture room unless you are otherwise notified. As well, for the final examination students must be available between April 20 and April 28. The date and time of the final exam will be announced by the Student Services office. This information is also subject to change so students should continue checking the posted schedules as they are updated.

Exams will consist of written questions such as short answer, paragraph and essay questions. Several choices will be available for the essays and they will be fairly short (i.e., one to two pages in length). If an exam is missed because of a serious reason, such as illness, proof must be provided to the instructor (i.e., a note from your physician) before a makeup exam can be arranged. If you realize you cannot attend a scheduled exam please notify the instructor as soon as possible either in person or leave a message on the instructor's office answering machine. If you are unable to write the final exam at the scheduled time you should notify the instructor and submit an application to the Student Services office for permission to write a deferred exam.

Please bear in mind that exam marks are FINAL. This means you cannot rewrite an exam because of a poor grade and there are NO written assignments you can do to make up for a poor exam grade except for the already assigned paper.

Cheating on an exam or any other form of academic misconduct is taken very seriously and is punishable in a variety of ways. For more information on the penalties that can be imposed please see page 27 of the college calendar.

The paper must cover an issue within the scope of Cognitive Psychology. Please meet with the instructor regarding your topic BEFORE you begin writing it or if you are having trouble finding a suitable topic. The paper should be approximately 10 pages in length (double-spaced), must be typed, stapled (not in duotang cover) and written in APA format. I will review this format in class and provide a handout for those not familiar with it. Papers must include and will be viewed more favorably if they include at least a couple of recent journal articles. Papers submitted after the due date will receive 10% of its grade removed for each day it is late. Plagiarism will be treated with the same severity as cheating on an exam. Spelling, grammar, and sentence structure will be graded as well.

Please be advised that a lack of planning on your part will not constitute an emergency on the instructor's part. For example, leaving all work on the paper to the last minute and then having a crisis arise will not get you an extension. Be aware that you may be asked to provide evidence of prior work before being granted an extension and that extensions are rarely granted.

Because lectures will not always cover the assigned reading your attendance is expected at all lectures. Learning is an active process that will take effort on your part and so you will be expected to read in advance of class lectures, participate in activities and discussions in the classroom and communicate with the instructor when you encounter difficulties with course material. The instructor does NOT lend out lecture notes. Students are responsible for assigned textbook chapters and other assigned readings as well as material covered in lectures.

It is expected that all students will display a professional attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students, attention to fellow student's questions and the instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and constructive response to criticism. Students unable to meet these expectations will be asked to leave the classroom in the interest of preserving the learning opportunities of other students.

NOTE: Any changes to the course outline will be made in consultation with the students during class time. Should you not be present in class when such a consultation is made it is your responsibility to acquire the changed information.

Grade Schedule:

9	90 – 100	
8	80 – 89	excellent
7	72 – 79	
6	65 – 71	good
5	57 – 64	
4	50 – 56	pass
3	45 – 49	fail
2	26 – 44	
1	0 – 25	

Course Schedule:

January 4 – January 27

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
Cognitive Neuroscience
Perception
Pattern Recognition
Attention

Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

February 3 – March 7

Consciousness
Memory: Theories and Neurocognition
Memory: Structures and Processes
General Knowledge
Mnemonics and Experts

Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Note: February 22 and 24 are holidays.

March 14 – April 11

Imagery
Language: Structure and Abstractions
Language: Words and Reading
Thinking: Decision-Making
Thinking: Problem Solving, Creativity and Intelligence
Artificial Intelligence

Chapters 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17