

Fall 2015

PSYC 2380

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University of New Orleans

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Psychology of Cognition (PSYC 2380-001)

University of New Orleans

Fall 2015

MWF 1-1:50

Instructor

Dr. Natalie M. Costa

Office: GP 2008

Phone: 504-280-6770

Email: ncosta@uno.edu (best way to reach me)

Office Hours: M 10-12, TH 11-3

Teaching Assistant

Andrea Tountas

Office: GP 2033

Office Hours: T 9:30-11:30

Required Materials

Matlin (2013). *Cognition*, 8th edition. Wiley. ISBN 13: 978-1-118-14896-9

Course Description

This course serves as a general introduction to the field of cognitive psychology. Cognitive psychology is the scientific study of how people acquire, remember, comprehend and use information. For example, how do we recognize an object, read words, or understand speech? How can we remember particular events and completely forget others? Throughout this course, we will discuss theories of the mind and how cognitive psychologists use these theories to understand and predict behavior. We will also discuss how information enters the mind, how attention is used to select certain parts of information, how knowledge is organized, and how memory works.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an understanding of the field of cognitive psychology, as well as the theories of the mind.
2. Develop an understanding of how memory, attention, language, and other various cognitive abilities work
3. Gain a knowledge base of the past and current research on various cognitive abilities

Course Requirements

- 1) **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. UNO requires that attendance be taken for all 2000-level (or below) courses. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of class. Absences will affect your grade indirectly through exam performance. It is important to attend each class, as portions of exams will be on lecture material not covered in the text. If you miss a class, you should arrange to get notes from a classmate. You can see me if you have any questions.
- 2) **Exams.** Four exams will be given during the semester, each worth 100 points (50 questions worth 2 points each) and one cumulative final worth 100 points (100 questions worth 1 point each). Exams will be multiple choice and will cover all relevant lecture material and assigned readings. Your lowest exam score from exams 1-4 will be dropped. Because of this, there are NO MAKE UP EXAMS. If you miss an exam, that will be your dropped exam score.

If you have taken all 4 exams and have an A in the class, you do not have to take the cumulative final.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the best four of five exams. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

A = 90-100% (360-400 points)

B = 80-89% (320-359 points)

C = 70-79% (280-319 points)

D = 60-69% (240-279 points)

F = below 60% (0-239 points)

UNO Email and Moodle

You will need to have your log-in and password for Moodle and UNO email. Please check your email each day of class before class to see if there are any updates. For example, if I should have to cancel class due to illness or emergency, it would be first thing in the morning. If you check your email before class you will see the email. For Moodle, the chapter lectures will be posted there, as well as your grades.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

Disability Accommodations

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

Final Note

The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule as necessary. You are responsible for all changes to the schedule and for all information presented during class, regardless of whether or not you attended class.

| Date | Chapter | Topic |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 8/19 | | Introduction to Class/Go over Syllabus |
| 8/21 | 1 | An Intro To Cognitive Psychology |
| 8/24 | 1 | An Intro To Cognitive Psychology |
| 8/26 | 2 | Visual and Auditory Recognition |
| 8/28 | 2 | Visual and Auditory Recognition |
| 8/31 | 3 | Attention and Consciousness |
| 9/2 | 3 | Attention and Consciousness |
| 9/4 | 3 | Attention and Consciousness |
| 9/7 | | <i>NO CLASS: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</i> |
| 9/9 | | Exam 1 (Chs 1-3) |
| 9/11 | 4 | Working Memory |
| 9/14 | 4 | Working Memory |
| 9/16 | 5 | Long-Term Memory |
| 9/18 | 5 | Long-Term Memory |
| 9/21 | 5 | Long-Term Memory |
| 9/23 | 6 | Memory Strategies and MetaCognition |
| 9/25 | 6 | Memory Strategies and MetaCognition |
| 9/28 | 6 | Memory Strategies and MetaCognition |
| 9/30 | | Exam 2 (Chs 4-6) |
| 10/5 | 7 | Mental Imagery and Cognitive Maps |
| 10/7 | 7 | Mental Imagery and Cognitive Maps |
| 10/9 | 7 | Mental Imagery and Cognitive Maps |
| 10/12 | 8 | General Knowledge |
| 10/14 | 8 | General Knowledge |
| <i>10/16</i> | | <i>NO CLASS: MID SEMESTER BREAK</i> |
| 10/19 | 8 | General Knowledge |
| 10/21 | 9 | Intro to Language and Language Comprehension |
| 10/23 | 9 | Intro to Language and Language Comprehension |
| 10/26 | 9 | Intro to Language and Language Comprehension |
| 10/28 | 10 | Language Production and Bilingualism |
| 10/30 | 10 | Language Production and Bilingualism |
| 11/2 | 10 | Language Production and Bilingualism |
| 11/4 | | Exam 3 (Chs 7-10) |
| 11/6 | 11 | Problem Solving and Creativity |
| 11/9 | 11 | Problem Solving and Creativity |
| <i>11/11</i> | | <i>NO CLASS</i> |
| <i>11/13</i> | | <i>NO CLASS</i> |
| 11/16 | 12 | Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making |
| 11/18 | 12 | Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making |
| 11/20 | 12 | Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making |
| 11/23 | 13 | Cognitive Development throughout the Life Span |
| <i>11/25</i> | 13 | Cognitive Development throughout the Life Span |

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|--------------|------------|--|
| 11/27 | | <i>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</i> |
| 11/30 | | OPEN DAYS to be used if we miss class and need to catch up |
| 12/2 | | OPEN DAYS to be used if we miss class and need to catch up |
| 12/4 | | Exam 4 (Chs. 11-13) |
| 12/11 | ALL | 12:30-2:30 Final Exam |