



COGNITION

PSYC 2385 – Section R10
Summer 2015

Instructor: Dr. Rajiv Jhangiani
E-Mail: rajiv.jhangiani@kpu.ca
Website: courses.kpu.ca
Classes: Wednesdays from 1-4pm
Classroom: Richmond Main 1830
Office: Richmond Main 2402
Office hours: rjhangiani.youcanbook.me
Skype: rsjhangiani
Twitter: @thatpsychprof
Hashtag: #PSYC2385

Course Description:

This is an exciting time to study Cognitive Psychology. What we will aim to learn in this class is how the mind works. If we learn just a fraction of the mind's intricacies, we will have succeeded in our aim. In this class, we will cover some of the basics of cognitive neuroscience, attention, perception, memory, problem solving, and decision-making.

Course Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and explain the key issues and concepts in cognition research
- 2) Critically analyze research on a number of applied cognitive topics
- 3) Analyze and observe experiments and demonstrations including computer simulations
- 4) Evaluate the impact of perception, memory and knowledge representation upon applied areas such as eyewitness testimony
- 5) Define and analyze the effect of language, decision making and problem solving in everyday experience
- 6) Examine the influence of cultural trends upon cognitive development

Course Readings:

There is no required textbook for this course. Instead, I will post relevant readings and video clips for each topic on the course website.

Course format:

This course involves weekly interactive lectures (including demonstrations, exercises, small and large group discussions), several online simulations and experiments, and one lab.

The lectures cannot cover all of the material in the readings; rather, the goal of the lectures is to 1) highlight the more significant aspects of the readings, 2) discuss topics not well-covered by the readings in more detail, and 3) pull together broad themes to make better sense of the readings. Not all of the material presented in the readings will be discussed in class, and vice versa.

Examinations (65%):

This course includes three examinations, each of which may include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Exams 1 and 2 each account for 25% of your course grade whereas Exam 3 accounts for 15% of your course grade.

Assignment (30%):

You will write a brief (~500 words), clear, and well-referenced overview of a psychological principle, phenomenon, or theory relevant to cognitive psychology (you will choose one from a pre-selected list). These brief articles will be published online (using a Creative Commons license) as part of a free and public Cognitive Psychology wiki.

You must select your topic by June 17. A complete draft of your article must be submitted for evaluation (worth 10%) by July 20. The final version of your article (worth 15%) is due by August 10.

The assignment includes an in-class peer assessment activity on August 5 (worth 5%) during which you will provide and receive feedback. The assignment instructions are posted on the course website.

Attention Lab Quiz (5%):

Following the Attention Lab, your lab instructor will provide you with a quiz to complete. Your answers to this quiz should be submitted directly to your lab instructor for grading. More details will be provided during the Attention Lab.

Research study participation:

One of the best methods of learning about and understanding psychological principles is to participate in actual research. You have the opportunity to earn bonus marks for your participation in research being conducted by

professors and students at Kwantlen. You can earn 0.5% for each 1/2 hour of your participation in a research study, up to a maximum of 2% bonus marks for this course. Please sign up for research projects [by clicking here](#). Alternative options for obtaining bonus credits are available if you prefer not to participate in research (e.g., an article summary or withholding data).



Course Schedule:

Date	Topic
May 13	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
May 20	Cognitive Neuroscience
May 27	Attention Lab (Room 2160)
June 3	Exam 1
June 10	Perception
June 17	Short-term and Working Memory
June 24	Long-term Memory
July 1	Canada Day (statutory holiday)
July 8	Exam 2
July 15	Everyday Memory & Memory Errors (Draft of wiki article due by July 20)
July 22	Problem Solving & Decision Making
July 29	Exam 3
Aug. 5	Peer assessments (Wiki article due by Aug. 10)
Aug. 12	Cognitive Complexity

Note: This schedule may be modified during the semester. You are responsible for being aware of any changes, whether or not you attended the class in which they were announced.

Grading Profile:

A+	90-100%	C+	64-67
A	85-89	C	60-63
A-	80-84	C-	56-59
B+	76-79	D	50-55
B	72-75	F	0-49
B-	68-71		

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any instances will result in penalties ranging from a grade of zero on the assignment to a failing grade in the course to expulsion from the university. You are responsible for understanding [the university policies on plagiarism and cheating](#).

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

You are responsible for being aware of your rights and responsibilities, including those specified in [the university policy on student conduct](#).

Attendance and Punctuality:

Attendance will be taken regularly but does not factor into your course grade. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be admitted into the classroom until the mid-class break. If you do miss a class I suggest that you obtain notes from two classmates.

Email Communication:

Please type your course and section number (PSYC 2385-R10) in the subject line of any email you send to me.

Questions appropriate for email are those that can be answered with 1-2 sentence replies. Anything longer than this (e.g., an explanation of a concept) requires a face-to-face meeting.

Please do not expect prompt replies to emails sent to me over the weekend or less than 24 hours before an exam.

Missed exams and Late Assignments:

Exams will not be rescheduled except in the case of a medical emergency. If you are severely ill and have to miss an exam, you or a caregiver must 1) notify me before the exam start time and then 2) provide a doctor's note within one week. Unless both conditions are met, you will receive a zero. If you are granted a make-up exam, it may be of a different format and may include an oral exam.

Late assignments will not be accepted but early submissions are welcome.

Laptops, Smartphones, & Electronic Devices:

Laptop users must sit towards the rear of the classroom so as not to distract other students.

Texting or otherwise using your phone during class is disrespectful to your instructor. If necessary, I would prefer that you excuse yourself from the classroom.

You may not make audio or video recordings of the lectures without my prior consent.

YouTube Playlist:

When possible, I post the video clips that I show in class to [the YouTube playlist I have set up for this course](#).

Digital Badges

You may earn digital badges for successfully completing or achieving mastery (scoring 80% or better) in this course.