

PSYC221-700: Cognitive Psychology

Syllabus

Fall 2024

Course Description

Cognitive psychology is the study of the mind. By employing the scientific method, cognitive psychologists develop an understanding of the processes involved in all aspects of thinking, including attention, perception, memory, reasoning, language, and problem-solving. With the human brain considered to be the most complex object known to exist, and maybe the most powerful learning system known to exist, the study of the thinking processes it produces is immensely challenging. With this complexity and the challenge of using our own thinking to study human thinking, cognitive psychology represents a rich and fascinating research domain.

University Operating Dates

Please visit the [Faculty of Arts and Sciences Sessional Dates website](#) for all academic deadlines.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify and explain classic and current issues within cognitive psychology (including but not limited to perception, attention, memory, knowledge, language, problem solving, and reasoning and decision making)
- Identify and explain standard methodological approaches used in the study of human cognition and cognitive neuroscience.
- Engage in critical reading of empirical evidence used to examine theories of cognition.
- Explain how experimental findings inform theories of cognition.
- Collaborate with peers to analyze experimental designs and theories and effectively communicate the results.

Educational Materials

Access codes for the required resources for this course are available from the [Queen's Campus Bookstore](#):

- **MindTap Instant Access Code for *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience*, 5th Edition (6 Month/One Term Access). ISBN: 9781337408288.**

This subscription includes access to

- E. Bruce Goldstein, *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience*. Fifth Edition, Cengage, 2019.

- MindTap is an online platform MindTap that includes access to readings, multimedia, activities and assessments.
- CogLab is an interactive online laboratory where students can run demonstrations of more than 50 classical experiments and concepts from cognitive psychology.

Educational Technology

This course makes use of MindTap and CogLab for learning activities.

Please follow these instructions for accessing MindTap and CogLab:

How to register for MindTap for PSYC

221: https://www.cengage.com/coursepages/Queens_PSYC221F24

Third Party Policy

This course makes use of MindTap and CogLabs for some activities. Be aware that by logging into the Cengage site, you will be leaving onQ, and accessing Cengage's MindTap website. Your independent use of this site, beyond what is required for the course (for example, purchasing the company's products) is subject to Cengage's terms of use and privacy policy.

You are encouraged to review these documents, using the links below, before using the site.

Cengage Privacy Policies

MindTap	https://www.cengagegroup.com/privacy/
CogLab	https://coglab.cengage.com/info/privacy.shtml

Timeline

The Course Timeline shows all relevant course dates, including assessments, as well as links to other important course information. As dates may change, you should consult the Timeline each time you log in to the course.

Suggested Time Commitment

Students can expect to spend approximately 10-12 hours a week in study/practice and online activity for this course.

Weighting of Assessments

Activity	Weight	Learning Outcomes
Discussions (2 total)	16%	Aligned to Learning Outcomes 1,2,5
Quizzes (best 8/10)	16%	Aligned to Learning Outcomes 1,2
CogLab Assignments (2 total)	20%	Aligned to Learning Outcomes 1,2,3,4,5

Final Exam	48%	Aligned to Learning Outcomes 1,2,3,4
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Assessments and Activities Description

Online Quizzes

There are 10 quizzes in this course. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions based on the weekly material from weekly videos and textbook readings. The quizzes will be open for 72 hours and once you start, you will have 11 minutes to complete your quiz. Your final grade will be based on your highest 8 quizzes.

Online Discussions

- **Week 2:**
 - You will participate in an unmarked discussion assignment meant to familiarize you with the discussion forum.
- **Weeks 3 and 8:**
 - You will be randomly assigned to small groups and have a TA or the instructor assigned to your group to facilitate your discussion. There will be three components to each discussion assignment:
 - **Initial post:** Each student will first provide a response to the discussion question,
 - **Participation:** Each student will participate in discussion forum by responding to other students' posts.
 - **Final submission:** Your discussion group will provide a single final submission.
 - You will be marked on the quality of your initial post, your contribution to the discussion forum, and the quality of the group's final submission.
 - Each discussion will be marked out of 10 points (2 points for your individual initial post, 2 points for participating in the discussion forum, and 6 points for a group final submission) but will be worth 8% of your total grade.
 - The initial post must be completed by the deadline as stated in the course timeline, otherwise you will receive a grade of zero on the initial post. If you do not complete the individual initial post and don't participate in the discussion forum, then you will also get zero on the group final submission.
 - This is a group report, and everyone in the group should contribute in a timely and meaningful manner.
 - Your final discussion grade will be based on both discussions.

Cognitive Lab Assignments

- **During Week 4:**
 - You will participate in an unmarked cognitive lab assignment meant to familiarize you with the structure of the cognitive labs.
- **Weeks 6 and 10:**
 - You will complete a cognitive lab, and submit a written assignment (maximum 2 pages in length). Each written assignment is designed to demonstrate your understanding of that week's cognitive lab.
 - Each cognitive lab will be worth 10 points (rubric provided for each individual lab)

Final Exam

The Final Exam is three hours in length and includes multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the material from the entire term. The specific date for the final exam will be announced later in the term, along with more details on the number of questions.

Late Assignment Submission Policy

- The initial discussion post must be completed by the deadline stated in the course timeline, otherwise you will receive a grade of zero on the initial post.
- Participation in the forum for the discussion assignments must be completed within the open discussion period as outlined in the course timeline, otherwise the participation grade will be assigned a zero.
- Late group final discussion submissions will be penalized 10% per day late including weekend days.
- Online quizzes must be completed during the 72-hour testing window, otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.
- Late cognitive lab assignments will be penalized 10% per day late including weekend days.

Policy Regarding Remarking

Students who believe grades on their assessments are inaccurate should first discuss the grading and feedback with the teaching assistant who graded their work. Requests for re-marking should be emailed to the instructor and must explicitly and clearly state how the work deserves a different grade than assigned. The request should include: the assignment, all feedback from your TA (including your discussion with them), and why discussions with the teaching assistant did not resolve the situation. If I decide to approve a re-mark, another teaching assistant will re-mark the assessment under my supervision. The re-mark will stand as the final mark, even if it is lower than the original mark.

Grading

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Contacting the Teaching Team

The teaching team contact information is located on the Homepage of the course (see "[Teaching Team](#)").

For general questions about the course, please post to the [Course Questions Forum](#), (located under Help in the navigation bar). Feel free to help answer your peers' questions on this forum. Most questions are answered within 24 hours.

Please use your Queen's email for inquires that are more personal in nature, or for issues such as academic accommodations or marking. If you need to have a more detailed conversation, please contact your instructor.

Course Feedback

At various points during the course, students may be asked to take part in a variety of feedback activities (such as questionnaires and exit tickets).

This feedback enables the team to make any adjustments necessary to improve the online learning environment. Additional student feedback will be sought throughout the course. All surveys are anonymous, and directly related to activities, assessments, and other course material.

Netiquette

In any course you often communicate with your peers and teaching team through electronic communication. You are expected to use the utmost respect in your dealings with your colleagues or when participating in activities, discussions and online communication.

Here is a list of netiquette guidelines. Please read them carefully and use them to guide your communication in this course and beyond.

1. Make a personal commitment to learn about, understand, and support your peers.
2. Assume the best of others and expect the best of them.
3. Acknowledge the impact of oppression on the lives of other people and make sure your writing is respectful and inclusive.
4. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings.
5. Pay close attention to what your peers write before you respond. Think through and re-read your writings before you post or send them to others.
6. It's ok to disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
7. Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas and challenge others with the intent of facilitating growth. Do not demean or embarrass others.
8. Encourage others to develop and share their ideas.

Queen's Email

The university communicates with students via Queen's email. Please check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss important information related to your course.

Copyright

The material on this website is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in PSYC 221. The material on this website may be downloaded for a registered student's personal use, but shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in PSYC 221. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Academic Accommodations

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities.

If you are a student with a disability and think you may require accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the [QSAS website](#).

Students with course accommodations should contact ASO immediately following registration to inform them of any accommodations to their timed assessments and/or final exam(s).

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of your accommodations in this course, please contact Tara Karasewich (Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant) at the following email: psyaccom@queensu.ca.

Academic Considerations for Students in Extenuating Circumstances

For all requests for academic considerations, please contact Tara Karasewich (Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant) at psyaccom@queensu.ca.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the [six core fundamental values](#) of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage.

These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see [Academic Regulation 1](#)), on the [Arts and Science website](#), and from the instructor of this course.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Technology Requirements

Please note that mobile devices are not recommended for the course as they cause several known issues in onQ.

Technological Requirements

Category	Requirements
Computer Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Windows 8.1 or newer• OS X 10.13 (High Sierra) or newer• Dual Core 2 GHz processor• 4 GB RAM• Soundcard• USB headset• Webcam
Supported Browsers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chrome (preferred - latest version)• Firefox (latest version)• <i>Safari is not recommended as it causes several known issues in onQ</i>• <i>Edge is not recommended as it causes several known issues in onQ</i>
Internet Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wired high speed access: Cable or better• <i>Wifi is not recommended</i>• A minimum download speed of 10 Mbps and up to 20 Mbps for multimedia is recommended• Click here for an Internet speed test
Java	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latest version
Media Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HTML5 compatible
Adobe Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latest Version

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Statement

Queen's University recognizes that the values of equity and diversity are vital to and in harmony with its educational mission and standards of excellence. It acknowledges that direct, indirect and systemic discrimination exists within our institutional structures, policies and practices and in our community. These take many forms and work to differentially advantage and disadvantage persons across social identities such as race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith and socioeconomic status, among other examples. In this class I will work to promote an anti-discriminatory, anti-racist and accountable environment where everyone feels welcome. Students

in this class are encouraged to participate during class discussions and to support others in their participation. Because the class will represent a diversity of individuals, beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences, every member of this class is asked to show respect for every other member.

Name/Pronoun

Knowing and applying students' names and pronouns is a crucial part of developing a productive learning environment that fosters safety, inclusion, and personal dignity. This is an important part of the inclusion work here at Queen's.

If you wish to change how your name appears in onQ and on class lists, please follow these steps. You may also use this process to add your pronouns to the appearance of your name.

1. Log into SOLUS.
2. Click on Personal Information tab.
3. Click on the Names tab
4. Click on the Add New Name tab
5. Choose Preferred from the Name Type drop down menu
6. Enter your preferred name.
7. Click Save.

Please allow 24 to 48 hours for your preferred name to be registered within the system. If you have further questions or concerns please contact ITS at Queen's University.

Course Announcements

Throughout the course, I will post announcements to the class, including reminders of upcoming due dates, responses to frequent questions, corrections to broken links, etc. I encourage you to routinely check the Announcements section of the course homepage in onQ. To ensure that you receive these announcements promptly, I also recommend that you enable [email notifications to your Queen's email address](#).

Questions about the Course and Contacting the Teaching Team

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