



Cognition (Psyc 331)

Sec 1: TR 12:35-1:50

Sec 2: TR 3:35-4:50

Spring 2017 Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Jody Lewis
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The goals of this course are to:

1. understand and practice identifying the principles of cognitive psychology
2. help you to develop the skills needed to study behavior as a science
3. recognize how the knowledge in cognitive psychology can be applied to everyday life

Teaching philosophy and classroom expectations:

- I do not make judgments about a student's character based on their grades/performance in my classes.
- I do care very much about my teaching, how I run a classroom, and will do anything I can to help you get the best possible grade in this course.
- My goal in life is NOT to give busy work, torture students, and make their lives miserable –really, I have better things to do with my time.
- I consider all students adults which means that I believe that students are able to make decisions for themselves, have a life outside the classroom, and if students need help, they will come to me (I do not chase students around and I don't monitor their attendance closely).
- I think students learn more and get more out of a class when they read the book and come to class and participate in class.
- I expect that students will ask questions in class if they need me to repeat something, clarify what I said, and/or are curious about something
- Learning should be fun and relaxing, but difficult. Very few of us have sponge-like brains, so if you want to learn something you have to work hard.
- Please do not take video or audio recordings of me without my permission. I consider this not only CREEPY but a violation of my privacy.

Class Materials

Text: Matlin, M. (2013) Cognition 8th Edition. You may read the assigned reading in the book before or after lecture. I would highly suggest both.

Internet Sources:

Course material will be provided through Desire to Learn (D2L). This will include the syllabus, lecture outlines, outside reading assignments, and anything else I come across that may be interesting and/or useful for class.

Course requirements

Exams: There will be three exams over material covered in lecture, the textbook, assigned readings and class projects. I will provide make-up exams with a legitimate, documented excuse and if you contact me within 24 hours of the scheduled exam.

Class project: Students will work in pairs to conduct an in-class demonstration of a cognitive principle. Students will be provided with the materials they will need to run the demonstration. Students will collect data, present the findings to the class, and write an APA style research report of their findings. More details will be provided in another handout.

Application assignments: In order to help students practice ideas about how cognitive psychology can be used in practice, students will be assigned 6 short application assignments over the course of the semester. For each assignment, students will be asked to summarize another students' presentation and to discuss how the knowledge of that demonstration applies to the real world. More details will be provided in another handout.

Grading: Your grade is based on the number of points earned in the class.

Point distribution:

Exams (80 pts x 3)	240pts	69%
App assignments (5pts x 6)	30pts	9%
Project presentation	20pts	6%
<u>Project paper</u>	<u>60pts</u>	<u>17%</u>
Total	350pts	100%

Letter grade cutoffs:	
A	93%-100%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	60%-66%
F	<60%

Additional course information

Attendance: Attendance is expected in this class. I do not keep a written record of attendance, however, my experience is that students do not perform well in a course if they miss a lot of classes. Please note that you will be responsible for any lecture material, announcements, or schedule changes given during class time.

Academic honesty: I do not tolerate violations of academic honesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and copying/buying papers off the internet. You are responsible for understanding and abiding by the university academic standards. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in the failure of the course. Please see Chapter 14, *Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures* of the UWSP *Community Rights and Responsibilities*. This can be found at <https://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/rightsCommBillRights.pdf>

Disability accommodation: Please contact me and Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester if you are in need of any additional accommodations (346-3365).

Religious accommodation: Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as you notify me within the first three weeks of the beginning of class of the specific dates on which you will request relief.

Tutoring-Learning Center: The center provides assistance such as group and individual tutoring, help with computer skills, and help with writing papers. They are located in 018 LRC (346-3568). They can also be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/>

Withdrawal policy: If you decide you no longer want to take the course you must follow the university procedures for officially dropping the course. If you stop attending and do not officially drop the course you will receive an F in the course. See the Registration and Records webpage for information about when the last day is to drop a course (click on Registration Dates and Information). <http://www.uwsp.edu/reg-rec/>

Tentative Schedule

	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS	DUE DATES
Unit 1				
week 1	Jan 24, 26	Syllabus, introductions, research methods	Ch. 1 pgs. 2-12	
week 2	Jan 31, Feb 2	Perception and pattern recognition	Ch. 2 pgs. 34-35, 40-59	
week 3	Feb 7, 9	Attention	Ch. 3 pgs. 70-77	
week 4	Feb 14, 16	Short-term/working memory	Ch. 4	
week 5	Feb 21, 23	Short-term/working memory	Ch. 4	Exam 1 Feb 23
Unit 2				
week 6	Feb 28, March 2	Long-term memory	Ch. 5	
week 7	Mar 7, 9	Long-term memory	Ch. 5	
week 8	Mar 14, 16	Memory strategies and metacognition	Ch. 6 pgs. (170-176 optional), 178-183, 188-202	
week 9	Mar 20-24	SPRING BREAK		
week 10	Mar 28, 30	Imagery and Cognitive maps	Ch. 7 pgs. 208-228, 230-243	
week 11	April 4, 6	Imagery and Cognitive maps	(Ch. 7)	Exam 2 Apr 6
Unit 3				
week 12	Apr 11, 13	Knowledge and semantic memory	Ch. 8 pgs. 248-268, 272-278, 285-290	
week 13	Apr 18, 20	Language and reading	Ch. 2 pgs. 59-63 Ch. 9 pgs. 298-315, 318-323	
week 14	April 25, 27	Problem solving and reasoning	Ch. 11 pgs. 380-391	
week 15	May 2, 4	Problem solving and reasoning	Ch. 12 pgs. 408-433, 436-439, 443-445	
week 16	May 9, 11	Decision making	(Ch. 12)	
week 17	May 15-19	Finals week Sec 1: Mon, May 15 2:45-4:45pm Sec 2: Tues, May 16 5-7pm		Exam 3

Finals: (You may NOT reschedule your final except for an emergency or if you have 3 finals on that day)