

Cognition Section 01

PSYC 135

Fall 2023 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023 Modified 08/21/2023

Contact Information

Instructor:	Evan M. Palmer, Ph.D.
Office Location:	316 Dudley Moorhead Hall
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Drop-In Hours (aka Office Hours):	Tues 10:30 am – 12:30 pm [via Zoom or in person]
Class Days/Time:	Tues / Thurs 3:00 – 4:15 pm
Classroom:	348 Dudley Moorhead Hall
Prerequisites:	PSYC 1

Course Description and Requisites

The activity of knowing: acquisition, organization and use of knowledge. Processes involved in that activity, including perception, memory, thinking and language.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Classroom Protocol

I intend to foster an inclusive learning environment in which people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives are recognized, respected, and seen as a source of strength. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity with regard to gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions on how I can make this course more equitable and inclusive to all forms of diversity are encouraged and appreciated.

All students are expected to exhibit professionalism and respect for each other and the instructor. Specifically, this means arriving to class on time, being prepared for class, participating in discussions, being civil to your fellow classmates and instructor, and paying attention to in-class demonstrations and lectures. If you arrive late to class or need to leave early from class, please sit near the door so as not to disturb the rest of the class. Please silence and put away cell phones during class. If I see that you are using your cell phone during lecture, I will ask you to put it away. Repeated violations of the cell phone policy may result in further disciplinary action. You may record lectures only if you obtain my permission first, and such recordings are only to be used for personal study and may not be posted online.

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate any forms of academic dishonesty in my courses. I take issues of academic dishonesty very seriously and pursue disciplinary action rigorously, so please take extra care to avoid this sort of unpleasant situation.

Any instances of cheating on exams results in an automatic 0 for the exam.

Plagiarized assignments automatically receive a score of 0.

Plagiarism refers to using materials that you did not create (i.e., published works, work of other students, material created by artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT) and submitting it as your own creation without proper citation/attribution. When in doubt, remember this rule: All assignments in this course must be your own work and you must properly cite any resources that were used. Written assignments will be checked by TurnItIn and may be submitted to AI detection tools, as well.

I reserve the right to fail a student in the course if the academic dishonesty transgression is particularly severe.

All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development (SCED). Students may appeal any accusations of cheating or plagiarism to SCED.

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. **Knowledge Base of Psychology.** Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. **Research Methods in Psychology.** Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
3. **Critical Thinking Skills.** Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
4. **Applications of Psychology.** Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

- CLO1: Demonstrate knowledge of the different components of cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, and decision making.
- CLO2: Identify the cognitive mechanisms that underlie behavior.
- CLO3: Describe different research methods used in cognitive psychology research.
- CLO4: Infer appropriate conclusions from cognitive psychology research.
- CLO5: Communicate findings and implications from cognitive psychology research.
- CLO6: Synthesize evidence in favor of arguments pertaining to debates in cognitive psychology.
- CLO7: Evaluate and criticize arguments pertaining to issues in cognitive psychology.
- CLO8: Articulate how concepts in cognitive psychology apply to their everyday lives.
- CLO9: Respect the relative nature of empirical evidence.
- CLO10: Recognize the value of intellectual curiosity and skepticism.

Course Materials

Textbook

Cognitive Psychology and its Implications (9th Ed.) by John R. Anderson (ISBN13: 9781319106959).

[Note: 8th Edition (ISBN: 1464148910) is OK too.]

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

Chapter Quizzes: There will be a 10-question quiz covering each chapter of the textbook, administered on Canvas after the lectures for the chapter have concluded. These quizzes are intended to be completed without referencing your book or notes! You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz, so make sure to study before starting. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Research Paper: Find a news article or blog post that references one of the cognitive topics we cover in the course (e.g., perception, attention, thinking, memory, decision making, language) and analyze it from a scientific perspective. Example news article topics are eyewitness memory, artificial intelligence, financial decision making, expertise, or second language acquisition. You must find at least two peer-reviewed journal articles on the topic of the article and include them in your analysis as the source material for the scientific perspective. What does the news article get right and what does it get wrong, in terms of the science? Papers should adhere to APA style for citations and be minimum 1,500 words long. The paper is due Sunday, December 3, 2023 by 11:59 PM and will be submitted on Canvas where it will be plagiarism-checked by TurnItIn.

Exams: Exam 1 will be given on Thursday, September 28, 2023 in class, and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 1-4. Exam 2 will be given on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 in class and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 5-8. Exam 3 will be given on Monday, December 11, 2023 in class and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 9, 11, and 12. All exams will require a skinny green scantron sheet (form 882-E).

Make-Up Policy: Exams can be made-up but only if 1) I am contacted ahead of time, and/or 2) there are extraordinary circumstances (e.g., family death, accident, severe illness) that caused you to miss the regularly scheduled exam. Extraordinary circumstances require documentation.

Late Assignment Policy: All assignments will be penalized 1% for every hour they are late. If something comes up and you know that you will be late submitting an assignment, contact me before the assignment is due, and I will be able to give you an extension. If I am not contacted before the assignment is due, the normal late penalty will apply.

✓ Grading Information

Grade Breakdown:

20%	Chapter Quizzes – 10 best scores on 11 Chapter Quizzes (lowest grade dropped)
20%	Research Paper
60%	3 Exams

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A+	96.50 – 100%
A	92.50 – 96.49%
A-	89.50 – 92.49%
B+	86.50 – 89.49%

B	82.50 – 86.59%
B-	79.50 – 82.49%
C+	76.50 – 79.49%
C	72.50 – 76.49%
C-	69.50 – 72.49%
D+	66.50 – 69.49%
D	62.50 – 66.49%
D-	59.50 – 62.49%
F	≤ 59.49%

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

PSYC 135-01 / Cognition Fall, 2023 Course Schedule

(Schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class or via email.)

Date	Topic	Readings
Tues, 8/22	Introduction/The Science of Cognition	Anderson Ch. 1

Date	Topic	Readings
Thurs, 8/24	Introduction/The Science of Cognition	Anderson Ch. 1
Tues, 8/29	Perception	Anderson Ch. 2
Thurs, 8/31	Perception	Anderson Ch. 2
Tues, 9/5	Perception	Anderson Ch. 2
Thurs, 9/7	Attention & Performance	Anderson Ch. 3
Tues, 9/12	Attention & Performance	Anderson Ch. 3
Thurs, 9/14	Attention & Performance	Anderson Ch. 3
Tues, 9/19	Mental Imagery	Anderson Ch. 4
Thurs, 9/21	Mental Imagery	Anderson Ch. 4
Tues, 9/26	Mental Imagery / Exam 1 Review	Anderson Ch. 4
Thurs, 9/28	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)	
Tues, 10/3	Representation of Knowledge	Anderson Ch. 5
Thurs, 10/5	Representation of Knowledge	Anderson Ch. 5
Tues, 10/10	Human Memory: Encoding and Storage	Anderson Ch. 6
Thurs, 10/12	Human Memory: Encoding and Storage	Anderson Ch. 6
Tues, 10/17	Human Memory: Encoding and Storage	Anderson Ch. 6
Thurs, 10/19	Human Memory: Retention and Retrieval	Anderson Ch. 7
Tues, 10/24	Human Memory: Retention and Retrieval	Anderson Ch. 7
Thurs, 10/26	Problem Solving	Anderson Ch. 8
Tues, 10/31	Problem Solving	Anderson Ch. 8
Thurs, 11/2	Problem Solving / Exam 2 Review	Anderson Ch. 8
Tues, 11/7	Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8)	

Date	Topic	Readings
Thurs, 11/9	Expertise	Anderson Ch. 9
Tues, 11/14	Expertise	Anderson Ch. 9
Thurs, 11/16	Decision Making	Anderson Ch. 11
Tues, 11/21	Decision Making	Anderson Ch. 11
Thurs, 11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASS	
Tues, 11/28	Decision Making	Anderson Ch. 11
Thurs, 11/30	Language Structure	Anderson Ch. 12
Sun, 12/3 by 11:59 PM	Research Paper Due	Submit to Canvas
Tues, 12/5	Language Structure / Exam 3 Review	Anderson Ch. 12
Mon, 12/11 2:45 - 5:00 PM	Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 11, 12)	