Psychology 218: Cognitive Psychology, Fall 2006

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 – 4:20 pm, Bass 203

Course Instructor

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Course Structure

This course will provide an introductory exploration of how the human mind works. We will cover a broad range of topics, from attention to memory to intelligence. We will address traditional theoretical perspectives, but in the context of existing data. Thus, the main emphasis of the class will be an evaluation of selective empirical studies (both classic and current) associated with each topic.

Required Text (available from College Bookstore in the Campus Center)

Sternberg, R. J. (2006). *Cognitive Psychology* (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. Packaged with *CogLab* on-line system and *Concept Maps and CogLab Online Manual* (Required for the course).

Additional readings, lecture notes and class assignments will be available on Moodle

Course Requirements

The course is in lecture/discussion format. You are expected to **complete the required readings before class.**

Exams

There will be three noncumulative exams. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions. Makeup exams will be considered only under rare occasions, notification of which must occur **before** the date of the exam. Makeup exams must be taken within a week of the original test date.

In-class Focus

Several times during the semester we will look closely at a theoretical or empirical article related to one of the class topics for that week. On such days you should come to class prepared to discuss the Focus readings (denoted as "FOC" in the last column of the topic schedule).

Written Assignment

You will write one short paper (3 pages) on a topic assigned in class (more information to follow). The paper is due in class on a designated day (see schedule).

CogLab online experimental system

Your textbook comes with an on-line system that allows you to experience 36 of the experiments described in your book. You are free to complete as many experiments as you wish, however only six are required for the course. See the topic schedule below for the dates and topics of each CogLab assignment. Each CogLab is due 48 hours before the assigned date.

Class Participation

Much of the success of this course depends on inquiry and discussion that is forthcoming from the class. You will be graded for your participation. Participation includes attending regularly, paying attention, and contributing to discussion where appropriate.

Points Distribution

Exam 1	24
Exam 2	24
Exam 3	24
CogLab x 6	12
Writing Assignment	12
Participation	4
Total:	100

Grade Equivalents

A 100.0–93.0; A- 90.0–92.9; B+ 87.0–89.9; B 83–86.9; B- 80.0–82.9; C+ 77.0–79.9; C 73.0–76.9; C- 70.0–72.9; D+ 67.0–69.9; D 63.0–66.9; D- 60.0–62.9; F below 60.0

Important Dates

Th 10/12	Exam 1
Th 11/7	Exam 2
Th 11/28	Writing Assignment due
Th 12/14	Exam 3

Outline of Topics

Date	Topic	Reading
Part I: Background		
Th 9/7	Introduction	
Tu 9/12	History of Cognitive Psychology	Sternberg, pp. 2 – 11; 19 – 25
Th 9/14	Research Methods in Cognitive Psychology/Cognitive Neuroscience	Sternberg, pp. 13 – 21; Ch. 2
Part II: The Low Road		
Tu 9/19	Attention I: Theories CogLab: Spatial Cueing	Sternberg, pp. 76 – 97
Th 9/21	Attention II: Automaticity and Divided Attention CogLab: Change Detection	Sternberg, pp. 68 – 72; 97 – 106
Tu 9/26	Perception I: Architecture, Form and Size Constancy	Sternberg, pp. 111 - 122
Th 9/28	Perception II: Object Perception	Sternberg, pp. 122 – 148
Tu 10/3	Perception III: Direct Perception	Bruce and Green
Th 10/5	Review	
Tu 10/10	No Class Autumn Recess	
Th 10/12	**Exam 1**	

Part III: The Middle Road

Tu 10/17	Introduction to Memory CogLab: False Memory	Sternberg, Ch. 5
Th 10/19	Memory Processes FOC: Memory Distortions in People Reporting Abduction by Aliens	Sternberg, Ch. 6 Clancy, et al.
Tu 10/24	Mental Imagery CogLab: Mental Rotation	Sternberg, pp. 229 – 259
Th 10/26	Concepts and Categorization	Sternberg, pp. 275 – 291
Tu 10/31	Language Structure FOC: Raeding Wrods With Jubmled Lettres: There Is a Cost. CogLab: Language	Sternberg, Ch. 9 Rayner et al.
Tu 11/2	Review	
Th 11/7	**Exam 2**	
Tu 11/9	No Class Othelia Cromwell Day	

Part IV: The High Road

Tu 11/14	Problem Solving	Sternberg, pp. 392 – 420
Th 11/16	Creativity	Sternberg, pp. 421 – 436
Tu 11/21	Decision Making CogLab: Risky Decisions	Sternberg, pp. 440 – 454
Th 11/23	No Class Thanksgiving	
Tu 11/28	Reasoning FOC: The Mind Machine: A mass participation experiment into the possible existence of extra-sensory perception	Sternberg, pp. 455 – 481 Wiseman and Greening

Th 11/30	Cognitive Development	supplemental chapter
Tu 12/5	Intelligence	Sternberg, Ch. 14
Th 12/7	Summary/Review	
Tu 12/12	To Be Determined	
Th 12/14	**Exam 3**	

Supplemental Readings

Bruce, V. & Green, P.R. (1991). Visual Perception: Physiology, psychology, and ecology. Chapter 10: Introduction to the ecological approach to visual perception. (pp. 223 – 239). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

Clancy, S., McNally, R., Schacter, D., Lenzenwegar, M., & Pitman, R. (2002). Memory distortion in people reporting abduction by aliens. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 111,* 455 – 461.

Rayner, K., White, S., Johnson, R., & Liversedge, S. (2006). Raeding words ith jumbled letters: There is a cost. *Psychological Science, 17,* 192 – 193.

Wiseman, R. & Greening, E. (2002). The mind Machine: A mass participation experiment into the possible existence of extra-sensory perception. *British Journal of Psychology, 93,* 487 – 499.