Instructor Information:

Adrian Staub  
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Office hours: Monday 11-12:30, Wednesday 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

Electronic Resources:

This course has a SPARK webpage. I will use this page to post electronic copies of the readings, as well as other useful materials.

There is also a class email address: psych-617-01-fal11@courses.umass.edu. I will use this to communicate with the entire class. You may also use this email address if you need to send a message to the entire class (e.g., you’re scheduled to lead a discussion, and you want to note something in advance of the class). Obviously, you should use my personal email for direct communication with me.

Overview:

This course is the first half of a two-semester graduate sequence that is intended to provide an intensive introduction to cognitive psychology. This semester focuses on ‘higher-level’ cognition, specifically:

- memory and knowledge representation  
- judgment, decision making, and reasoning  
- language  
- attention, automaticity, and cognitive control

In the course of reviewing research in these areas, the course introduces mathematical/computational modeling of cognition. (However, the course does not assume mathematical background beyond high school algebra.) The emphasis will be on providing a sense of the methods, issues, and models in each area, rather than on state-of-the-art findings.

Reading:

There is a textbook for this class: Cognitive Psychology. Author: Eysenck and Keane, Publisher: Psychology Press, Edition: 6th, Year Published: 2010, Price: 53.96 USD.
Additional articles will be assigned in association with each topic. Many will be from the primary literature, though some will be review articles. The articles will be available electronically on the course SPARK page. Note that the reading list is tentative and may change. All changes will be announced in class.

You are expected to read the textbook chapters and articles carefully, and to be prepared to discuss them. For many of the classes, a student will be assigned the task of leading discussion of the article. Be aware that this course requires a fair amount of reading. Read early and often!

Requirements:

Class participation. Class participation is an integral part of a small graduate class. Please provide comments and ask questions. Regular attendance is necessary, but not sufficient, for a good participation grade. Please note that if some personal circumstance prevents you from doing the reading prior to a given class, let me know this ahead of time, but do come to class anyway.

Class discussion leader. You will be asked to lead ~2 discussions on the reading assignments. Guidelines for how to do this will be provided. If a powerpoint or handout will help you facilitate discussion, you are welcome to make one, but this is not required.

Exams. This course will have two take home exams. There will be a midterm due near the midpoint of the semester, and a cumulative final exam due during the exam period. These exams will test your knowledge of the content covered in the class, but will also require you to apply this knowledge to new questions and problems. The exams will be in short answer and essay format.

Evaluation:

Grading. Your grade will be computed as follows:

- class participation: 20%
- leading discussions: 20%
- midterm: 20%
- final exam: 40%

Attendance Policy. If you know you are going to miss a class, please tell me in advance. Obviously, sometimes people get sick or have other emergencies, and if this happens once or twice over the course of the semester it isn’t a big deal. Repeated absences will affect your participation grade, however.

Please come to class on time. I find it extremely distracting to have people arriving after class has begun. Again, if this happens once or twice over the semester, no big deal, but do not let it become a habit.

Please do not text, surf the web, etc. in class.
If you miss a day you were supposed to lead discussion, this will result in a grade of 0 for that presentation, unless you provide a university-sanctioned excuse.

**Late Exam Policy.** Exams 1 day late will be reduced by ½ letter grade (e.g., A to A-). Exams 2 days late will be reduced by a letter grade (e.g., A to B). Exams 3 or more days late will not be accepted.

**Academic Honesty:**

All students are expected to adhere scrupulously to the University policy concerning academic honesty. For more info on the University's academic honesty policy, check this web site: [http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/](http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/).

If you are unfamiliar with what constitutes plagiarism, please see [http://www.indiana.edu/~tedfrick/plagiarism/](http://www.indiana.edu/~tedfrick/plagiarism/) and [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml). I have access to and will use plagiarism detection software. Any case of plagiarism will automatically receive a zero on that assignment and will be reported.
**Calendar**

**9/7: Introduction**

**9/9, 9/12, 9/14, 9/16, 9/19: Foundations**

E&K Chapter 1


**9/21, 9/23, 9/26, 9/28, 9/30, 10/3, 10/5, 10/7, 10/11 (Tuesday, but UMass Monday), 10/12, 10/14: Memory and Knowledge Representation**

E&K Chapters 6-8


10/17, 10/19, 10/21, 10/24, 10/26, 10/28, 10/31, 11/2 (No class 11/4): Judgment, Decision Making, Reasoning

E&K Chapters 12-14


11/7, 11/9 (Friday is Veterans day) 11/14, 11/16, 11/18, 11/21, (Wednesday and Friday are Thanksgiving), 11/28: Language

E&K Chapters 9-11


11/30, 12/2, 12/5, 12/7, 12/9: Attention, Automaticity, and Cognitive Control

E&K Chapter 5
