

# PSYCH 315 – Cognitive Psychology Fall 2018

**Professor:** Dr. Rosie Cowell  
**Office:** Tobin Hall 431  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 9.00 – 10.00am  
**Email:** rcowell@psych.umass.edu  
**Lecture times:** Mon/Wed 2.30 – 3.45 pm  
**Class location:** Thompson Hall, Room 104

<b>Graduate TAs:</b> Merika Wilson	<b>Office :</b> Tobin Hall 523	<b>Graduate TA email:</b> <a href="mailto:cogpsych315@gmail.com">cogpsych315@gmail.com</a>	<b>Office Hours:</b> Wed 1.15 – 2.15pm
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<b>Undergraduate TAs:</b> Regan Woodnut John Vargas Nick Stevenson Nicole Lafond	<b>Office:</b> Bartlett 13	<b>Undergraduate TA contact:</b> Use 'Ask A TA!' Moodle Forum	<b>Office Hours:</b> Mon 11.30-12.30 Thu 11.30-12.30
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**Course website:** <https://moodle.umass.edu/course/view.php?id=46801>

This course has a **MOODLE page**. It includes this syllabus, readings, calendar, schedule changes and other announcements. Any changes/updates will be posted on Moodle: **you are responsible for knowing them.**

## Course Description

Cognitive psychology is the scientific study of the mind. We will learn about the mental processes that underlie human thinking, including how we perceive the world, how we remember, how we use language, and how we make decisions.

This course will impart: (1) an understanding of how you use information from the world to guide your behavior and shape your thoughts, (2) knowledge of the brain processes that underlie your behavior and thoughts, and (3) an understanding of the experimental methods used to study the mind and brain.

## Course Required Materials

- 1) **Textbook:** McBride, D. M. and Cooper Cutting, J. C. *Cognitive Psychology: Theory, Process, and Methodology, 2e (Paperback)*. SAGE Publications, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1506383866.
- 2) **i>clicker 2 Remote.** ISBN: 978-1498601634. Note that REEF polling is not necessary for this class (though it comes free with i>clicker2 on Amazon). An older i>clicker remote without REEF will suffice.

## Class attendance

Class attendance is extremely important. Classes will be used to *elaborate on concepts from the assigned readings*, introduce *new material*, conduct *demonstrations*, show *videos*, collect *in-class question responses* via i>clicker polling, and assign *spontaneous writing assignments*. All tests and exams will be based on readings and on **any material covered in class**: regular attendance will help you to earn a higher grade. If you miss class, you must obtain the notes from a classmate or from an undergraduate TA (at discussion session or office hours). It is your responsibility to find out about any class-related information you missed.

## Course Requirements

### **In-class Questions and Activities via i>clicker Polling (9%)**

In every class there will be questions and activities interspersed with the lecture material, to which you can respond using your i>clicker remote. Scoring for i>clicker Questions and Activities will be *participation-based*, meaning full marks can be earned simply by attending class and answering all questions with your

i>clicker. Bonus points may be available if you get all questions correct on a given day! Your i>clicker score will begin accumulating on *Monday 11 September (Class #3)*. At the end of the semester, your *three* lowest i>clicker class scores will be dropped and your i>clicker semester score will be the average of the remaining class scores (i.e., you get three freebies if you miss class for illness, forget your i>clicker, etc.). Your i>clicker semester score will be weighted to count as 9% of your final grade. Please note that:

- **There will be no make-up option for i>clicker points.** Points may be obtained in class only.
- **We cannot give i>clicker credit to students who attend without a functioning i>clicker.**
- For any student caught **entering responses on more than one i>clicker**:
  - They will **score zero** on their i>clicker component for the semester (loss of 9% of total grade).
  - The student to whom the “spare” i>clicker belongs will also **score zero** (loss of 9%).
  - Both students will be reported to the University’s **Academic Honesty Board**.

### **Spontaneous Writing Assignments (16%)**

During the semester you will complete several 5-minute, in-class writing assignments. These will be given spontaneously (without warning) and will be based on the assigned textbook readings for that day, or on material from a recent class. You will be graded 0, 2 or 4 for each assignment. A score of 0 will be awarded if no assignment is submitted; a 2 will be awarded for a partially completed assignment or an answer that does not demonstrate adequate understanding of the concepts; a 4 will be awarded for a complete and accurate answer. There will be *six* assignments, but only your best *four* scores will count (you get 2 freebies if you miss class for illness, etc.). Each assignment will therefore account for 4% of your final grade. **Under no circumstance may these assignments be made up. They will be completed in class only.**

### **Unit tests (50%)**

There will be **three Unit Tests** during this course. Each Unit Test is non-cumulative: only the material covered since the last test will be on the current test. Test questions will be based on all assigned readings (whether covered in class or not), and any class material, including lecture material presented orally or in slides, videos, and class demonstrations. You may **drop the lowest of your three Unit Test grades**. Thus, only your best two Unit Test grades will be averaged into your final grade (each counting for 25% of your final grade). Because you may drop the lowest grade, **make-up exams will not be given except under the most extreme, validated circumstances** (e.g., death in the immediate family or personal hospitalization).

### **Final Examination (25%)**

There will be a cumulative final exam during Finals Week on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, from 3.30-5.30pm**. **Please do not book flights or vacations that clash**. All material covered during the course, including topics that were examined in the unit tests, will be tested. Questions will be based on all assigned readings (whether covered in class or not), and all class material, including lecture material presented orally or in slides, videos, and class demonstrations. **This exam is not optional: your score cannot be ‘dropped’.**

### **Composition of Grade**

i>Clicker Questions: 9%

Spontaneous Writing Assignments: 16%

Unit Tests: 50% (2 x 25%, with lowest grade from the three Unit Tests dropped)

Final Exam: 25%

### **Grading Scale**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
93-100	90-92.5	85-89.5	80-84.5	75-79.5	70-74.5	65-69.5	60-64.5	55-59.5	50-54.5	0-49.5

Scores will be rounded to the nearest whole number, **after** aggregating across assignments and **before** translating to a letter grade.

### ***Extra-Credit Options***

You may earn up to 8 extra-credit points in two ways: (1) participation in research studies in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences (max 8 points, see below); or (2) participation in Psych 315 Discussion Sessions (max 8 points, see below). You may *combine points* from these options, up to a **maximum of 8 total extra-credit points**. Each extra-credit point translates to 0.5 percentage points to be added to your final grade at the end of the semester, i.e., the maximum extra-credit is 4%.

#### **1) Participation in Experiments through SONA.**

- You may receive extra credit by participating in **up to 4 hours (8 credits)** of experiments through our department's SONA system. You will receive 1 experimental credit for every half-hour of research participation, which in turn is worth 0.5 percentage points added to your final grade average for this course. The **maximum extra-credit you can earn from research participation is 8 credits**, which will take 4 hours, and will add 4% to your final grade average.
- SONA offers an optional, online "**Pre-screen**" to facilitate the matching of experimental participants with certain experiments. If you opt to do the Prescreen, you will be asked to complete a set of questionnaires and will be registered in the pool of subjects, and you will earn **2 extra-credits**. You must **complete the Prescreen by October 3<sup>rd</sup>** to earn the credits.
- Note that the **maximum extra credit** earned through SONA **cannot exceed 8 credits** for this course, so ***if you do the prescreen you cannot accumulate more than 6 credits through research participation.***
- Instructions for SONA are here: <https://www.umass.edu/pbs/undergraduate/sona-and-human-subjects-research>
- To sign up for experiments or complete the Prescreen, go to: <http://umasspsych.sona-systems.com/>.
- The **last day to do studies for extra-credit is December 12<sup>th</sup> 2018**. The last day to make changes to your record is **December 17<sup>th</sup> 2018**.
- Please note: 3 no-shows per semester will result in a lock out of the system. This means the loss of the credits already earned as well as the ability to participate in other studies.
- Any questions? Email: [sgkalmus@umass.edu](mailto:sgkalmus@umass.edu) for **all** SONA issues.

#### **2) Attendance at Psych 315 Discussion Sessions**

You may earn up to 8 extra-credit points for participating in *Discussion Sessions*, which will be held twice a week, in the evening. Sessions will begin on September 11<sup>th</sup>. During these meetings, Undergraduate Teaching Assistants will facilitate discussions of lectures and reading assignments for that week. You may also bring any questions you have concerning the readings or the lecture material. At the end of each session, a 2-point quiz will be given, and earned points will be added to your cumulative score for the semester (maximum of 2 points per week, and no more than 8 points for the entire semester).

### ***Academic dishonesty and plagiarism***

All students are expected to adhere scrupulously to the University policy on academic honesty, found here: <http://www.umass.edu/honesty/>. **Please read this policy.** A general guide to good conduct (including Academic Dishonesty) can be found here: [http://www.umass.edu/dean\\_students/codeofconduct/](http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/). If you do not follow these rules, you could fail the class and be reported to the Academic Honesty Board.

Many students do not understand the extent to which "paraphrasing" the text in another author's work is **unacceptable** in academic assignments that form part of the requirements for an undergraduate degree. The following website from Indiana University provides examples to help you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>.

### ***Disability***

If you need accommodations for a documented disability, please register with Disability Services and see the Graduate TA, Merika Wilson, **at the start of the semester** to arrange accommodations. Do not delay!

### ***Tentative Schedule***

Exact dates for lectures on specific topics may change.

You must ***check Moodle regularly*** for updates, e.g., in case the readings change in terms of date or topic.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1	Wed 5 Sep	Welcome and Introduction	Chapter 1
3	Mon 10 Sep	Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 2
4	Wed 12 Sep	Cognitive Psychology/ Cognitive Neuroscience	Chapter 2
5	Mon 17 Sep	Cognitive Neuroscience	Chapter 3
6	Wed 19 Sep	Perception	Chapter 3
6	Mon 24 Sep	Perception	Chapter 3
7	Wed 26 Sep	Attention	Chapter 4
8	Mon 1 Oct	Attention	Paper on Moodle
<b>Test</b>	<b>Wed 3 Oct</b>	<b>Unit Test 1</b>	
	<b>Mon 8 Oct</b>	<b>Holiday – Columbus Day</b>	
9	<b>Tues 9 Oct</b>	Memory Structures and Processes (Monday Schedule)	Chapter 5
10	Wed 10 Oct	Memory Structures and Processes	Chapter 5
11	Mon 15 Oct	Long-term Memory	Chapter 6
12	Wed 17 Oct	Long-Term Memory	Chapter 6
13	Mon 22 Oct	Memory Errors	Chapter 7
14	Wed 24 Oct	Memory Errors	Chapter 7
15	Mon 29 Oct	Imagery	Chapter 8
<b>Test</b>	<b>Wed 31 Oct</b>	<b>Unit Test 2</b>	
	<b>Mon 5 Nov</b>	<b>No Class</b>	
16	Wed 7 Nov	Language (Lecturer: Merika Wilson)	Chapter 9
	<b>Mon 12 Nov</b>	<b>No Class – Veterans Day</b>	
17	Wed 14 Nov	Language (Monday Schedule)	Chapter 9
	<b>19 – 23 Nov</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>	
18	Mon 26 Nov	Concepts and Knowledge	Chapter 10
19	Wed 28 Nov	Concepts and Knowledge	Chapter 10
20	Mon 3 Dec	Reasoning and Decision Making	Chapter 12
21	Wed 5 Dec	Reasoning and Decision Making	Chapter 12
<b>Test</b>	<b>Mon 10 Dec</b>	<b>Unit Test 3</b>	
22	Wed 12 Dec	Review and Course Wrap-up	
<b>Final</b>	<b>Wed 19 Dec</b>	<b>Final Exam: 3.30 – 5.30pm, Thompson 104</b>	