

PSYC 5313: HIGHER MENTAL PROCESSES

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OFFICE: 517
CLASS MEETINGS: T, Th 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM
COURSE WEBSITE: webct.uta.edu
OFFICE HOURS: T 10 – 11:00 PM and by Appointment

Course Description

Purpose and Goal: The course provides a survey of topics in higher mental processes. Each week articles covering a specific topic will be discussed. Some of these articles report recent research and others are fundamental readings.

Student Learning Outcomes: This class will be interactive in nature revolving around class participation. As a result of taking this course you should gain the following knowledge

- 1) A general understanding of the cognitive perspective of Psychology
- 2) An understanding of the research methods used to better understand cognition
- 3) An understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the various research methods used to understand cognition
- 4) An understanding of some of the applications Cognitive Psychology to real world situations
- 5) An opportunity to apply Cognitive Psychology to real world situations

Your knowledge of course material will be evaluated in three different ways:

- 1) Your ability to clearly communicate the complex issues inherent to the scientific understanding of cognition during a presentation you will give during class.
- 2) Your ability to discuss the topics inherent to cognition during class discussions
- 3) Your ability to accurately answer essay test questions about the scientific understanding of cognition.

Required Readings: As a courtesy, all required readings are available in pdf format on WebCT.

Specific Course Requirements

Reading Notes: Each student will keep reading notes for the assigned readings. These notes should be dated and labeled with their corresponding reading. The notes will be collected at random on a couple of occasions during the semester and graded for their quality.

Presentations: Each student will prepare and present PowerPoint presentations on one of the articles assigned for this course. Your presentation should last between 20 – 30 minutes. After the presentation there will be additional time for group discussion. Group discussion should last at least 10 minutes. Note that during a presentation the Professor will interject and ask questions of the presenter to clarify various points. All class members are responsible for having read the article being presented and contributing to class discussion of the article.

Each presentation will be worth 35 points and will be graded in the following areas:

- 1) Clarity of presentation (10 points possible)
- 2) Thoroughness of presentation (10 points possible)
- 3) Use of PowerPoint (5 points possible)
- 4) Ability to lead class discussion (10 points possible)

Section Exams: Two essay exams will be administered in this course. There are no make-up exams. If for some reason you are unable to make an exam, you will be required to complete the exam early. Such

provisions will only be granted for extreme circumstances, and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The Unit 1 exam will take place on Thursday, October 9th. The Unit 2 exam will take place during the time scheduled for the final exam, Tuesday, December 9th from 11 AM to 1:30 PM.

Course Policies

Grading Policy: A total of 160 points will be available for this class. Thirty-five (35) of these points will come from your presentations. A hundred (100) of these points will come from your section exams. Twenty-five (25) of these points will come from the quality of the reading notes being kept over the course of the semester.

Grades for the course will be assigned according to the following "total points earned" cutoffs:

160 - 144 points	- A
143 - 128 points	- B
127 - 112 points	- C
111 - 96 points	- D
95 - 0 points	- F

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide a reasonable accommodation@ to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center) which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

Student Support Services: The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form at The University of Texas at Arlington. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. (Regents= Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2., Subdivision 3.22).

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by the bomb threat. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.