

PSYC 3145.001: Fall 2009
Cognitive Processes Lab
Wednesday 1:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Life Science Building 428

Instructor: Kara Lorduy

Office: Life Science Building 507

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 (or by appointment)

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Course Materials:

➤ **Required Readings:**

- Scientific articles will be posted on WebCT or handed out in class.
 - APA Manual
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Description of Course Content: With an awareness of the general scientific principles that govern the quest to understanding human behavior and the mind, we will adopt the scientific approach as we survey the many areas of specialization within the field of cognitive psychology. This course is designed to meet the needs of both majors and non-majors.

Student Learning Outcomes: Successful completion of this lab will involve mastery of the information presented in class and its application. Additionally, you should be better equipped to think more critically and scientifically. This course will discuss topics including but not limited to biological processes of behavior, sensory and perception, speech and language, developmental psychology, human learning and memory, and higher mental processes.

Upon completion of this course, you will have an understanding of the following:

- The information provided in the readings and class discussion.
 - Application of the topics covered in class.
 - The usefulness of knowledge of cognitive processes in everyday life.
 - How to design and conduct an experiment and how to analyze and write-up the data in a scientific APA manuscript.
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Class Format:

- Attendance: Attendance and class participation is mandatory.
 - a. Problem solving activities: Each class will begin with a problem solving activity. Completion of this activity will earn two points toward the 20 points necessary to earn maximum credit for this portion of your final grade.
 - b. Homework: Each class a homework assignment will be due. Completion of this activity will earn two points toward the 20 points necessary to earn maximum credit for this portion of your final grade.

c. **No make-up homework or make-up problem solving activities will be given.**

- **APA Paper:** As part of a group, you will design and conduct an experiment. On an individual basis, you will be responsible for writing an APA manuscript. Grading rubrics will be provided for each section of the paper as they are due throughout the semester. Each section of the paper is worth 40 points, where the final paper is worth 100 points.
- **In-Class Presentation:** You will be required to give an oral presentation over a scientific article in class. This presentation will be 10 minutes long with 3 minutes for questions. This assignment is worth 60 points toward your final grade.
- **Group Poster Presentation:** Your research group will be required to give a poster presentation. This poster will present your hypotheses, background for your hypotheses, your results with figures and/or tables, and a brief discussion of your findings. A grading rubric for the poster and your presentation will be discussed in class and posted on WebCT prior to this date. This assignment is worth 80 points toward your final grade.
- **Extra Credit:** A maximum of 20 extra credit points can be earned toward your final grade for a three page summary of a scientific article. You will need to get my approval for the article before writing your summary.

➤ **Class Credit Distribution:**

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>	<u>Percentage Toward Final Grade</u>
Problem Solving Activities	20	5%
Homework	20	5%
Introduction	40	10%
Methods	40	10%
Results & Discussion	40	10%
In-Class Presentation	60	15%
Poster Presentation	80	20%
Final Paper	100	25%
Total	400 pts.	100%

➤ **Grading Scale:**

<u>Total Points Earned</u>	<u>Grade Equivalence</u>
400-360	A
359-320	B
319-296	C
295-276	D
< 275	F

Class Responsibilities:

- Attendance is mandatory, it is to your advantage to participate each day in class.
- You are responsible for checking WebCT and your MavMail for any class announcements or additional article readings.
- You are expected to be on time and to exhibit polite class-room behavior. Examples of impolite behavior are, talking out of turn, being noisy, being argumentative, using offensive language or being verbally or physically aggressive.
- All electronic devices must be silenced.
- Laptops are permitted, however, if they are distracting to the class, you may be asked not to bring them.
- Food and drink are permitted as long as it does not become distracting.
- You are responsible for any information missed on a day you are not present in class.
- If you need to leave early, please sit near the back of the class. *If you are unable to sit at the back of the room for whatever reason, please let me know that you will be leaving early before class starts.*

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Americans with Disabilities Act pursuant to sec. 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, constitutes that disabled individuals have the same opportunities that all citizens enjoy. If you have a disability please, let me know and I will correspond with the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of university Hall or call them at 817.272.3364 to provide “reasonable accommodation.”

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Anyone who engages in academic dishonesty will be held accountable for their actions according to the University of Texas at Arlington’s regulations. Discipline may result in suspension. Academic dishonesty is defined by Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22):

“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 another student or the attempt to commit such acts.”

Drop Policy:

If you withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to do so according to the Rules and Regulations of the University. You will not be dropped from the course for non-attendance and, therefore, will receive an “F” for the course unless you successfully withdraw by the drop date. Please refer to the student catalog and see the schedule of classes for the drop dates and policy.

A course drop grade will be assigned in accord with UT-Arlington policy (see current catalog). No grade is given if a student drops a course before 5:00 p.m. CST on the Census Date, September 9, 2009. A student may drop a course with a grade of W until the two-thirds point of the semester. This period ends on October 30, 2009. A student may drop a course after this point only upon approval of the appropriate official.

Drop for Non-payment of Tuition:

Unless tuition fees are paid before the payment date and time has expired, you may be dropped from this class for non-payment and you will no longer be able to attend. However, you may opt to take out an enrollment loan from the Bursar's Office and in the case that you choose to do this you will not be dropped and may attend class when your Enrollment loan has been applied.

Student Support Services Available:

“The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs 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.”

Electronic Communication Policy:

All students are assigned a MavMail account. *Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.* Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>.

There is no additional charge to you for using this account, and it remains active even after you graduate from UT Arlington.

Personal Note from the Instructor: I am looking forward to a great semester and I hope that you will enjoy this course. It is my goal to see you engaged in lab and in the topics we cover. Also, I want to see you be successful, so prepare for and attend class, do good quality work and, please, address me if you are having any questions or concerns.

Tentative Class Schedule

Session	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Week 1	08.26 W	Scientific Method & Ethics The Science of the Mind (Thought Essay/ IRB CITI)	
Week 2	09.02 W	The Neural Basis for Cognition (Assign Groups/ Topic Idea)	WebCT Article (Topic Idea)/ (IRB CITI)
Week 3	09.09 W	Recognizing Objects in the World (Design Experiment/ Hypotheses)	3 Sources: Summarized (Design Experiment/Hypotheses)
Week 4	09.16 W	Presentations (2) Paying Attention (Introduction Outline/ Materials)	WebCT Article 2 Sources: Summarized
Week 5	09.23 W	Acquisition: Working-Memory (Materials-E-prime) (Methods Section)	Introduction
Week 6	09.30 W	Presentations (2) Acquisition and Retrieval (Methods-E-Prime/ Consent Form)	WebCT Article Materials (Consent Form)
Week 7	10.07 W	Remembering Complex Events (E-Prime/Test Experiment)	WebCT Article Methods
Week 8	10.14 W	Presentations (2) Long-Term Memory (Data Collection)	WebCT Article
Week 9	10.21 W	Presentations (2) Language (Data Collection)	WebCT Article
Week 10	10.28 W	Visual Knowledge Run Data Analysis & Interpret Results (Results Section)	WebCT Article
Week 11	11.04 W	Judgment: Drawing Conclusions Posters	Results & Discussion
Week 12	11.11 W	Presentations (4) Reasoning Posters	WebCT Article
Week 13	11.18 W	Presentations (4) Solving Problems Posters	WebCT Article
Week 14	11.25 W	Posters & Papers Conscious/ Unconscious Thought	WebCT Article
Week 15	12.02 W TBA	No-Class Poster Session	Final Paper TBA