

PSYC 4334: Cognitive Processes
424 Life Sciences W 5:30-8:20

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Kimball
Office: 308 LS / Lab: 416 LS (check both places)
Office Hours: immediately after class and by appointment
Phone: 817-272-5480 (worst way to contact me)
Email: dkimball@uta.edu (best way to contact me)

Required Textbook:

D. Reisberg (3rd ed., 2006). Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind.

Course Description:

Current theory and research in cognitive processes such as memory, information processing, concept formation, and problem solving.

Attendance and Drop Policy:

Attendance will be considered as part of your participation grade, as a means of encouraging you to attend class and, I hope, learn more about cognition. The drop policy is as established by University rules.

Grading:

Exams. There will be 4 multiple-choice exams including the final exam. The final exam will be cumulative. The exams will be given on February 6 (15%), February 27 (15% of your grade), April 9 (20% of your grade), and during the final exam period on May 7 (20% of your grade).

Class participation: To encourage class participation, which is an important part of the learning process, participation and attendance will count as 30% of your grade.

Missed exams and classes: Missed exams and classes will be accorded a grade of zero unless the student submits a valid written excuse recognized by the university's rules. There will be no makeup exams.

Course objectives:

The goals of the course are to enable you to identify and discuss key concepts, findings, and theories in research on cognition, apply them to real-world phenomena, and evaluate evidence regarding such concepts, theories, and phenomena.

Electronic communication device policy:

All cell phones must remain OFF during class time. No talking on the phone, text messaging, emailing, instant messaging, or the like is to occur during the time allotted for this class. The instructor reserves the right to remove the cell phone or other electronic communication device from your possession for the remainder of the class period if you do not comply with this policy. Failure to comply with this policy will also adversely affect your participation grade.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference to Public Law 93112---The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. 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. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or material 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)

Student Success Programs: The University of Texas at Arlington 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, admissions 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.

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 bomb threats. 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.

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>EXAM</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
1/16		Overview; introduction	
		Background; methods	Ch. 1
		Neural basis of cognition	Ch. 2
1/23		Object recognition	Ch. 3
1/30		Attention	Ch. 4
2/6	Exam 1	Covers Chapters 1-4	
		Memory 1: Acquisition; working memory	Ch. 5
2/13		Memory 2: Connecting acquisition and retrieval	Ch. 6
2/20		Memory 3: Complex events	Ch. 7
2/27	Exam 2	Covers Chapters 5-7	
3/5		Associative theories of long-term memory	Ch. 8
3/12		Generic knowledge	Ch. 9
3/19		SPRING BREAK	
3/26		Language	Ch. 10
4/2		Metacognition; consciousness	Ch. 15
4/9	Exam 3	Covers Chapters 8-10 and 15	
4/16		Judgment	Ch. 12
4/23		Reasoning	Ch. 13
4/30		Problem solving	Ch. 14
5/7	Final Exam	Covers Chapters 1-10 and 12-15	