

Cognitive Processes Laboratory – Spring 2009

Psychology 3145.001

Life Sciences Building: Room 428
Tuesday: 12:30 – 3:20

Instructor: Colleen Thompson
Office: 505, Life Sciences Building
Office Hours: Monday, 12:00 – 1:00, or by appointment

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Weblinks: Department www.uta.edu/psychology
Class <http://www.uta.edu/webct/>

Course Description: Laboratory study of cognitive processes and critical evaluation of methodologies. 1 hour credit. Credit will be granted only once.

Course Learning Goals and Objectives: Upon completion of the course students will be able to understand, describe, and discuss the principles of cognitive psychology research, methods used by cognitive psychologists to assess said principles, and the application of cognitive psychology to every day life.

Additionally, students will be able to recognize and suggest corrections for flaws in experimental designs and methodologies, be able to design their own research experiment and demonstrate such knowledge through designing an experiment, conducting it, and then presenting it. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, writing, professionalism, and oral competency.

Requirements: Must have passed or be concurrently enrolled in PSYC 4334 (Cognitive Processes) AND have passed PSYC 2444.

Required Textbooks and Course Materials: Weekly readings will be assigned, and articles will be accessible via WebCt.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is not mandatory, however it is *highly recommended*.

Specific Course Requirements with Descriptions

Quizzes: There will be 9 quizzes during the semester, given every week. Quizzes will be over material presented in lab and in the assigned readings/assignments. **Students arriving after 12:30 will not be allowed to take the quiz after the first quiz has been turned in.** Quizzes will test knowledge regarding 1) how to interpret experimental results as they relate to the original findings of the articles 2) experimental design issues, and 3) theoretical concepts relevant to the article and topic previously discussed. *One* quiz grade will be dropped.

Writing Assignments: There are two required writing assignments due during the semester (see schedule). Assignments are to be done individually and are due at the beginning of class. Assignments are designed to develop writing skills and examine comprehension of methodologies and theory employed in cognitive psychology.

Final Experiment and Paper: Students will design a cognitive psychology experiment (in teams). They will also run and formally write up said experiment. The design and analysis will be done in teams, however the final paper is to be done *individually*. The final experiment and paper is designed to assess writing skills, critical thinking, and comprehension of cognitive psychology.

Presentation: The final experiment will be turned into a poster (done in teams) which will be presented at a formal poster session to the faculty and graduate students of the psychology department. Chosen faculty members will serve as judges to help evaluate the students – their evaluations will count as part of the poster's final grade. Presentations are designed to assess oral competency and prepare students for their professional careers.

Missed Quizzes: Makeup quiz requests will be approved only when a university approved excuse, complete with documentation, is given. (See catalog for University approved excuses) A note from a friend or family member is not acceptable documentation.

Late Assignments: A deduction of 10% will be taken off if turned in on the due date but after 12:30 (or 3:30 for assignments due at the end of class). An additional 10% will be taken off per day that the assignment is not turned in. Late assignments will not be accepted after 1 week. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted unless I state otherwise.

Plagiarism and Collusion: As stated in the catalog and below: 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. Therefore, the *first time* students are caught engaging in such acts they will receive **a zero for the assignment/quiz and be referred to judicial affairs**. The *second time* they

engage in such acts they will receive a zero for the course and again be referred to judicial affairs.

Grading Format, Weighting/Point Value of Assignments and Quizzes, Final Grade:

The final course grade will be assigned based on the final point total accumulated.

Assignment	Total Points
Original Experiment and Paper	120
Poster Presentation	80
Paper Assignments (2)	60 Points Each
Quizzes (8/9)	10 Points Each
Total Possible Points	400

Letter Grade	Points Required
A	360-400
B	320-359
C	280-219
D	240-279
F	239 and below

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 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 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)

Final Review Week:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and **laboratory examinations**. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and lectures and presentations may be given.

Drop 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, February 4th, 2009.

A student may drop a course with a grade of W until the two-thirds point of the semester. This period ends on April 3rd, 2009. A student may drop a course after this point only upon approval of the appropriate official.

Drop for Non-payment of Tuition

If you are dropped from this class for non-payment of tuition, you may secure an Enrollment Loan through the Bursar's Office. You may not continue to attend class until your Enrollment Loan has been applied to outstanding tuition fees.

E-Culture Policy

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a

student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

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.

Course Schedule:

Topics are tentative – the topics and/or order of topics may change during the semester.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>
January 20th	Course Introduction
January 27th	Quiz 1 Cognitive Neuroscience IRB Review Statistics Review Methodology
February 3rd	Quiz 2 Perception How to Write <i>Good</i> College Papers (in psyc)
February 10th	Quiz 3 Attention Introduction to E-Prime Design a Stroop task on E-Prime (teams)
February 17th	Quiz 4 Memory Finish designing Stroop task on E-Prime Participate in the Stroop experiment
February 24th	Quiz 5 Memory SPSS review Analyze Stroop results on SPSS
March 3rd	Quiz 6 Stroop Paper Due (individual work) False Memories Experimental Design Review Discuss experiments for final project (teams)

March 10th	<p>Quiz 7</p> <p>Decision Making</p> <p>How to Write <i>Good</i> Papers continued</p> <p>Discuss experiments and methods for final project (outline of methods must be approved by end of class)</p>
March 17th	Spring Break
March 24th	<p>Quiz 8</p> <p>Language</p> <p>Work on stimuli for final project</p>
March 31st	<p>Quiz 9</p> <p>Paper 2 Due</p> <p>Concepts</p> <p>Continue work on stimuli for final project (stimuli / programs for experiment due at end of class)</p>
April 7th	Run experiments
April 14th	<p>Finish running experiments</p> <p>Statistical analyses and write-up</p>
April 21st	<p>Rough Draft of Poster Due at End of Class</p> <p>Rough Draft of Paper (optional) Due at End of Class</p> <p>In-class work on statistical analyses</p> <p>In-class work on poster</p>
April 28th	<p>Final Poster Due at End of Class</p> <p>(Considered late if received after 3:30)</p> <p>Rough drafts (optional) returned</p> <p>In-class preparation for poster presentation</p> <p>In-class work on final paper</p>
May 5 th	<p>Final Paper Due</p> <p>(Considered late if received after 3:30)</p>
**FRIDAY: May 8th (3-5pm)	POSTER PRESENTATIONS