

## Cognitive Psychology – Spring 2021 Course Syllabus

### Course Information

*Course Number/Section* PSY(CGS) 3361.002  
*Course Title* Cognitive Psychology  
*Term* Spring 2021  
Tuesday & Thursday 2:30pm-3:45pm, Remote/Virtual

### Professor Contact Information

*Professor* Dr. Gagan Wig, Ph.D.  
*Email Address* gwig@utdallas.edu  
*Office Location* Virtual – Blackboard Collaborate or phone call  
*Online Office Hours* By appointment

*Teachers Assistant* Mr. Phillip Agres  
*Email Address* phillip.agres@utdallas.edu  
*Office Location* Virtual – Blackboard Collaborate or phone call  
*Online Office Hours* By appointment

### Course Modality and Expectations

<b>Instructional Mode</b>	Remote (including asynchronous online learning access)
<b>Course Platform</b>	Blackboard Collaborate, accessible via course page on UTD Elearning
<b>Expectations</b>	Course will consist of lectures and associated discussions during the lecture. Students are expected to read assigned textbook reading, and attend classes and participate in discussions where possible. If student elects asynchronous option, student should view recorded lectures via online platform (Microsoft Stream).
<b>Asynchronous Learning Guidelines</b>	Asynchronous learning will be available. All virtual lectures will be recorded and available for viewing via Blackboard Collaborate. Quizzes will be self-administered and will require emailing the TA with the quiz answers (described below). Online testing will be available for an extended window of time during the testing days. Please inform instructor if you will be participating via the asynchronous option. <a href="https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/asynchronous-access-for-fall-2020/">https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/asynchronous-access-for-fall-2020/</a>

## **COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources**

The information contained in the following link lists the University's COVID-19 resources for students and instructors of record.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

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### **Class Participation**

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Class Recordings**

The instructor will record lectures of this course (onto Microsoft Stream). Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Class Materials**

The Instructor will provide class materials (lecture slides and review sheets) that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Lectures slides will be made available the morning of the lecture. Exam review sheets will be made available prior to exam review sessions. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of the mind and mental processes, including perception, imagery, attention, working memory, long-term memory, semantic memory, reasoning, decision making, and language comprehension. The focus is on the current research and theory in this rapidly evolving field. We will consider the relevance of brain-imaging and brain-injury results as well as behavioral data towards this goal.

## **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

After completing the course, students should be able to:

Program objective 1.1 Describe the primary objectives of scientific psychology (describing, explaining, predicting, and changing behavioral and mental processes).

Program objective 1.3 Describe, apply, and analyze selected content areas in psychology (e.g., memory, attention, language, judgment & decision making, knowledge).

Program objective 2.1 Identify and explain different research methods used by psychologists.

Program objective 2.5 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media, scholarly literature, and empirical reports.

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## **Required Textbooks**

*Text:* Reisberg, Daniel. *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind (ZAPS and Cognition Workbook optional)*,

W.W. Norton & Co., 2013 (5<sup>th</sup> ed.)\*

\*Used copies are available from online retailers

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## **Exams and Grading**

Exams will be administered using an online platform.

We will have three exams based on the lectures and reading, all in multiple-choice and short-answer format, and each exam weighted equally. The three exams will be non-cumulative. Although administered using an online platform, exams will not be open book/open notes.

In addition, pop-quizzes will be conducted within the Blackboard Collaborate environment. These quizzes are intended to both encourage attendance and facilitate comprehension. As such, points will be awarded for participation which is logged by Blackboard Collaborate. For individuals electing to take the asynchronous option, quiz answers should be mailed to your TA within 48 hours of the recorded lecture in order to receive credit for that quiz. While the grades on the quizzes will not contribute to the final grade, bonus points will be awarded for completion of quizzes.

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## **Technical Requirements**

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

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## **Course Access and Navigation**

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

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**Communication**

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

**Distance Learning Student Resources**

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

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**Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties**

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

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## Academic Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
January 19	Class overview	
January 21	Historical perspectives on the science of the mind	Reisberg, Chapter 1
January 26	The neural basis of cognition I	Reisberg, Chapter 2
January 28	The neural basis of cognition II	Reisberg, Chapter 2
February 2	Recognizing objects I	Reisberg, Chapter 3
February 4	Recognizing objects II	Reisberg, Chapter 3
February 9	Paying attention I	Reisberg, Chapter 4
February 11	Paying attention II	Reisberg, Chapter 4
February 16	University closed due to storm	
February 18	University closed due to storm	
February 23	Exam 1 review	
February 25	<b>Exam 1 (Reisberg, Chapters 1-4)</b>	
March 2	The acquisition of memories and the working-memory system I	Reisberg, Chapter 5
March 4	The acquisition of memories and the working-memory system II	Reisberg, Chapter 5
March 9	Interconnections between acquisition and retrieval I	Reisberg, Chapter 6
March 11	Interconnections between acquisition and retrieval II	Reisberg, Chapter 6
March 16	No Class (Spring Break)	
March 18	No Class (Spring Break)	
March 23	Remembering complex events I	Reisberg, Chapter 7
March 25	Remembering complex events II	Reisberg, Chapter 7
March 30	Concepts and generic knowledge I	Reisberg, Chapter 8
April 1	Concepts and generic knowledge II	Reisberg, Chapter 8
April 6	Exam 2 review	
April 8	<b>Exam 2 (Reisberg, Chapters 5-8)</b>	
April 13	Language I	Reisberg, Chapter 9
April 15	Language II	Reisberg, Chapter 9
April 20	Visual knowledge I	Reisberg, Chapter 10
April 22	Visual knowledge II	Reisberg, Chapter 10
April 27	Judgment: Drawing conclusions from evidence I	Reisberg, Chapter 11
April 29	Judgment: Drawing conclusions from evidence II	Reisberg, Chapter 11
May 4	Intelligence	Reisberg, Chapter 12
May 6	Exam 3 review	
May 11	<b>Exam 3 (Reisberg, Chapters 9-12)</b>	

## **Grading Policy**

Grading is based on a set of *a priori* criteria: 90% correct and above for the A range, 80% and above for the B range, 70% and above for the C range, and 60% and above for the D range. *In the event that the tests prove unusually difficult, I will relax these criteria somewhat.* Final grades will be based on the total number of points obtained on each exam. Each exam will count for 1/3 the final grade.

In addition, all students will have the opportunity to earn bonus points based on participation (not performance) in the quizzes (see above for description). Each quiz will be worth 0.25 bonus points towards the final grade and there will be between 5-10 quizzes (at the professor's discretion). As these are bonus points, they cannot be awarded in the case of absenteeism (independent of reason).

Final grade will be calculated as the average of the 3 exam scores, plus any awarded bonus points.

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## **Course Policies**

### *Make-up exams*

Make-up exams will be given only if: (a) you were seriously ill and have documentation from a physician, or (b) you have a police report (e.g., auto accident) indicating you were detained the day and time of the exam, or (c) you have made arrangements prior to the exam to attend an important event (e.g., a funeral). In any of these cases, you must notify the professor in advance of the scheduled time of the exam (call or leave an e-mail message if you can do nothing else). Otherwise, you will receive an F on the exam. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that an exam is made up within one week of the scheduled time. It is to your advantage to take the regular exam: Make-up exams may be more difficult to compensate for the advantage of greater study time.

### *Faulty Exam Questions*

Occasionally, exam questions can be unclear and faulty. If you encounter such a question, let me know immediately after the exam period. (You may talk to the instructor or leave a note with the secretary in the Associate Dean's Office, GR 4.528). I will consider your arguments before grading the exams, and if necessary throw out the question for everyone.

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## **Comet Creed**

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

*“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”*

## **Academic Support Resources**

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

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**UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to [UT Dallas Syllabus Policies](#) webpage for these policies.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*