Cognitive Psychology
ACN/HCS/PSYC 6395 | Fall 2015

Instructor: Richard James Addante, PhD
Class meets: Thursday, 4pm – 6:45pm
Class location: JSOM 2.902
Office: Green Hall, 4.402
Office hours: Thursdays 1pm-2pm & by appointment
Phone: 972-883-4846
Email: Richard.Addante@UTDallas.edu

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions: Graduate student standing, Bachelor's degree in psychology, cognitive science, or neuroscience, or consent of instructor.

Course recommended text: *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind*, *Fifth Edition.* W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN-10: 9780393138405. Additional readings may be assigned of original scientific journal articles at various times throughout the class.

Course Description: An introduction to the scientific study of the mind. It will cover mechanisms and models of cognitive functions. Topics include visual cognition, attention, memory, executive function, language and consciousness, including development and where appropriate disorders of cognition. The lectures and readings will reflect the multiple approaches of cognitive psychology, with an emphasis on integrative cognitive neuroscience perspectives.

Learning Outcomes: After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the history of cognitive psychology, including the evolution of methods of psychology, it theoretical conflicts, and sociocultural contexts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of major models and theories in cognitive psychology
- Weigh support for conclusions and identify relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Know how to critically evaluate primary research articles. Critically evaluate original research articles to determine whether the conclusions drawn from the findings are warranted, and discussion of the strengths and limitation of the work is adequate
- Apply cognitive concepts, theories, and research findings to issues in everyday life.

Learning Goals & Objectives: My goal is to provide outstanding instruction so that you can achieve excellence in understanding and communicating the introductory elements of cognitive psychology. I will seek to challenge you beyond your comfort zone, and to encourage you to think both critically and creatively about how to integrate both the historical foundations and the modern empirical findings and theories. You will be expected to demonstrate an ability to think critically to evaluate and actively integrate multiple themes from across various course topics, in order to reflect your mastery of the material.

Assessments: There will be 3 exams, each covering the preceding section of the course, and the last of which being cumulative. Material covered on the exams will be taken from the assigned readings and class lectures, as well as additional material that I may provide.

Missed Exams: Missed exams may be made up only if you: 1) provide a valid reason, and 2) notify the instructor BEFORE the exam. Excuses must be accompanied by valid documentation (documentation that you sought medical assistance, a newspaper clipping of the obituary of your deceased relative, or documentation from the police, AAA or an automotive garage that your car broke down). Make-up exams will have an additional long essay added to verify knowledge of material and sterility from prior exam.

Final grades will reflect your demonstrated competency of the course content, and will be the grade that you earn. They will not be curved, but will follow traditional rounding convention: .5 and higher rounds up.

To be fair in maintaining an equal and level playing field with your peers, there will be no 'adjustments' to your final earned grade at the end of the semester, no matter how close you are to the next grade up, and regardless of other factors so please do not ask.

Final Grades: A final grade will be submitted to represent demonstrated competency with course material, using the following basic scale: A (90–100), B (80–89), C (70–79), D (60-69), F (< 60). No grades in the course are curved. Each of the 3 exams will be weighted equally.

Elearning: Discussion boards and Chat are available for your use. I will not routinely monitor them unless I receive complaints about inappropriate posting. Grades will be posted as soon as they are available. Announcements will be made from time to time. In event of classroom emergencies, such as lecture cancellations etc., I will send email to all in the class. Slides may be posted after the lectures.

Attendance: UT Dallas policy on class attendance will be followed. Much of this class is designed to involve interactive class discussions and presentations among you and your peers. Thus, your performance in this course will be greatly enhanced by your attendance.

Class Policy & Expectations: You will be treated like adults and give all respect accordingly, but you will also be expected to conduct yourselves similarly. Please be respectful of your fellow classmates and put away your laptops and cell phones during lecture. If you arrive late, please make your best effort to be discreet and inconspicuous, and please do your best to not disrupt the ongoing class efforts. During exams, restroom breaks will not be allowed, so come prepared to finish the exams in one sitting. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated and all UTD policies will be followed.

Email: Please use only UT Dallas email accounts to communicate electronically with the Instructor, and do not have them forwarded to your iphones or other accounts, as this has led to students not receiving emails in the past, and we are not obligated to respond to emails from non-UTD accounts due to security reasons. I am delighted to answer questions and communicate with students via UTD email, so please feel welcome to do so. However, *please do not email with questions for which the answers are readily available within the course syllabus, E-learning, or lecture announcements: you will be referred back to those sources.* Please do indicate what course you are in within your email, as I teach several different classes containing hundreds of students.

Honor Code. A student in this course is considered to be a mature adult whose attitude and conduct are compatible with the ethical standards of the health professions. All academic work is conducted under an honor code, which requires abiding y UTD policies for plagiarism and cheating. As standard procedure during exams, place all coats, books, and other items at the front of the room. If any member of the teaching staff suspects a student of cheating, the student will be referred to the Dean of Students Office, per UTD policy. This course will use the resources of turnitin.com for possible plagiarism, 90% effective.

Official University Course Evaluations: Please note that all students in the UT System are now required to complete online evaluations of every course. Course evaluations help faculty improve their courses and their teaching, affect faculty professional development, and influence overall evaluations of faculty at the institutional level. Per UT System Regents, students who complete course evaluations will have priority access to course grades, once officially submitted to the registrar. Students who do not complete course evaluations will not have access to grades until the "Final Grades Viewable Online" date listed in the academic calendar.

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive an official university email that will contain links you may use to complete the evaluation forms for each of your classes. You also can log in to Course Lookup to complete the course evaluations. You will be asked the extent which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1. The instructor clearly defined and explained the course objectives and expectations.
2. The instructor was prepared for each instructional activity.
3. The instructor communicated information effectively.
4. The instructor encouraged me to take an active role in my own learning.
5. The instructor was available to students either electronically or in person.

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 http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies and be very familiar with them.*

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

Course schedule *Syllabus is subject to change at any time during the course, as needed.*

	Topics & Chapter Readings
Week 1	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
Week 2	Neural Basis for Cognition
Week 3	Recognizing Objects
Week 4	Paying attention
Week 5	EXAM
Week 6	Encoding & working memory
Week 7	Memory formation & retrieval
Week 8	Remembering complex events
Week 9	Memory Synthesis
Week 10	EXAM
Week 11	Concepts & Visual Knowledge
Week 12	Language
Week 13	Cognitive Control, Judgment, Problem Solving
Week 14	Conscious/Unconscious Thought
Week 15	*EXAM*