

PSYCH 219 – Fall 2013

Cognitive Psychology

How do we get so smart? How are we able to perceive the world around us, learn languages, make decisions, remember the past, or predict the future? How does a mass of neural tissue think? What are thoughts made of? These are the questions we will attempt to answer as we survey the major topics in cognitive science.

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30 or by appointment in Severance 213

Contacting me: If you contact me with a question, I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours.

Expectations and Approximate Grading: Your job is to come to class, do the readings, get involved in the material, and ask lots of questions. The class grades will be based on a research paper, a final exam, in-class quizzes, a few short assignments, and participation.

(1) Final exam	30%
(2) Term Paper (due 12/5; prospectus due 11/19)	30%
(3) Quizzes, participation and short assignments	40%

Academic Honesty: Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize. If you are unsure, please ask me. You may discuss homework with fellow students, but write-ups must be completed independently. The use of books, notes, etc. during an exam is not permitted. The Oberlin Honor Code will be in effect as usual in this course.

Readings: This course will use a textbook (E. Bruce Goldstein's *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience*, 3rd edition). Weekly readings will be posted online at least a week before they are due.

Research Paper: You will need to write an 8-ish page research paper. For this paper, you will read journal articles articulating a current issue in Cognitive Psychology, synthesize the arguments, take a position and write a persuasive paper arguing your point of view. The topic and associated readings will be up to you, but I am here to help. I ask that a prospectus that outlines your topic and at least some of the articles you will use as references be turned in a few weeks before the final paper (3/25).

Note to students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this class, please speak privately with me early in the semester so I may be prepared to meet your needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

Schedule of events:

DATE	TOPIC	READING DUE
3-Sep	welcome	NA
5-Sep	history	Goldstein, Ch. 1
10-Sep	mechanisms	Locke & Plato
12-Sep	learning	TBA
17-Sep	cognitive neuroscience	Goldstein, Ch. 2
19-Sep	perception	Goldstein, Ch. 3
24-Sep	modularity	Kanwisher et al.; Tarr et al.
26-Sep	attention	Goldstein, Ch. 4
1-Oct	review / quiz	NA
3-Oct	short term memory	Goldstein, Ch. 5
8-Oct	lrm: structure	Goldstein, Ch. 6
10-Oct	lrm: encoding & retrieval	Goldstein, Ch. 7
15-Oct	everyday memory	Goldstein, Ch. 8; Loftus
17-Oct	review / quiz	NA
29-Oct	categorization	Goldstein, Ch. 9
31-Oct	categorization	Boroditsky & Prinz
5-Nov	imagery	Goldstein, Ch. 10
7-Nov	imagery	Witthoft
12-Nov	review / quiz	NA
14-Nov	language	Goldstein, Ch. 11
19-Nov	language acquisition	Boroditsky & Leiberian
21-Nov	metaphor	Thibodeau & Boroditsky
26-Nov	review / quiz	NA
3-Dec	problem solving	Goldstein, Ch. 12
5-Dec	analogy	Gick & Holyoak
10-Dec	reasoning	Goldstein, Ch. 13
12-Dec	emotion / review	TBA

Lecture topics and readings are subject to change. Blackboard is always the best source of information on homework assignments and readings. In addition to posting readings and assignments on blackboard, I will upload lecture summaries to the site *after* class.