

Instructor: Brian Cahill

Department: Psychology

Office: 257 Psy

Office Hours: Wednesday 1-2pm or by appointment

Email: brian.cahill@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistants: Graduate TAs: Nikolette Lipsey and Mioko Sudo

Office: Virtual Office hours only

Office Hours: Lipsey Friday 10:30 – 11:30am or by appoint.; Sudo Wednesday 11-12pm or by appointment

Email: Lipsey: nlipsey@ufl.edu and Sudo: miokos827@ufl.edu

Course Description:

Cognitive Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes. This course will cover the major topics in the field, including perception, attention, memory, and decision making. Throughout the course, we will examine psychological research that attempts to explain these, and a variety of other, cognitive processes. At the end of the course, you will have a better understanding of how psychological research contributes to our knowledge of how the human mind works. Students should be prepared to think critically about each topic and to actively participate in class discussions. Successful completion of this course requires participation in class activities, completion of all assignments, and timely reading of assigned materials.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Have a better understanding of the origins of scientific interest in cognition.
2. Have a basic understanding of research methods in cognitive psychology.
3. Understand the theoretical models proposed to describe various mental processes.

Recommended Text and Required Materials:

Text: Matlin, M. W. & Thomas A. Farmer (2016). *Cognition* (9th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Canvas:

Course-related materials will be posted on Canvas platform (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>; click “**Canvas Login**”) so if you are not familiar with it I highly suggest that you spend some time exploring its various components. We’ll be using Canvas heavily to supplement our in-class meetings throughout the semester. Each student must become familiar with this software and **check the course web site on a regular basis** because important class updates and announcements will be posted online. You will be responsible for all class announcements made through canvas.

Course Structure:

Modules: To make the class easier for you I have standardized the opening and due dates of all modules and assignments throughout the course. Most modules will be 1 week long. Also modules will begin on Monday at 12am and will end the following Sunday at 11:59pm. Quizzes will be due on the last day of each module (i.e., Sunday at 11:59pm), while discussion posts will have 2 due dates. Your initial discussion post will be due on 3 days prior to the final post at 11:59pm (usually on a Thursday) and your response to a fellow student's discussion post will be due on Sunday at 11:59pm.

Exams: Each exam will consist of 45 multiple-choice questions and 1 open ended question. Each multiple-choice will be worth 2 points and the open ended question will be worth 10 points for a total of 100 points for each exam. There will be 4 exams in all and each exam will be non-cumulative. Exam 1 will cover chapters 1, 2, and 3; Exam 2 will cover chapters 4 and 4; Exam 3 will cover chapters 6, 8, and 11; and Exam 4 will cover chapters 12 and 13. Each exam will be taken using ProctorU and remember you will NOT be allowed to use your book or notes. You will be given one hour and 15 minutes to complete the exam. For most exams you will have a week that is devoted just to studying the material for the exam and then you will take the exam following that week. I will also do an exam review during that week that I will schedule with you all. Your lowest exam score will be dropped, so $3 \text{ exams} \times 100 = 300$ points total.

Quizzes: At the beginning of the module (i.e., Monday at 12am) I'll open up a 10-question multiple-choice quiz on Canvas. They'll be timed, such that you won't be able to look up answers quickly enough without knowing exactly where to look, so preparation's important. These quizzes are non-cumulative, thus they will focus on the current material being covered that week/module. Also, the questions will be randomly selected from a large question pool so each person's quiz will differ. Quizzes for each module will be due at the end of each module/week, which is a Sunday, at 11:59pm. There will be 10 quizzes in total, one for each of the modules, each worth 20 points each (2 points per question). Your lowest quiz score will be dropped, so $9 \text{ quizzes} \times (10 \text{ questions} \times 2 \text{ points each}) = 180$ points total.

Discussion Posts: Starting with module 1 we will have a discussion post every other module with the total number of posts being 5. Your posts will consist of an initial post which will entail you addressing the topic posed by me as well as a follow up response to one of your fellow students' posts. The purpose of these posts is for you to think critically about a topic and share your thoughts with your fellow students. The posts will likely change format from one to the next, but I will provide you with a detailed rubric for each post so you will have a clear understanding of what I am looking for in that particular post. I will open the post at the beginning of each module as well as post the rubric. Remember I will open the discussion post at the beginning of each module (i.e., Monday at 12am) and your initial discussion post will be due on 3 days prior to the end of the module at 11:59pm and your response to a fellow student's discussion post will be due on Sunday (usually) at 11:59pm. The reason behind having 2 due dates for this assignment is to make sure that you give everyone ample time to read your post and create a thoughtful response. Hopefully this will allow for some really great discussions!!! To earn your full points, make sure you fully answer/address each component in the initial post and provide a thoughtful response to a fellow student's post. Each post will be worth a maximum of 20 points, so with $4 \text{ posts} \times 20 \text{ points} = 80$ points total. Your lowest discussion grade will be dropped.

Grading Procedure:

Assessment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Exams	300	54%
Quizzes	180	32%
Discussion Posts	80	14%

Your final grade will include 3 exams, 9 quizzes, 4 posts, and any extra credit earned. **The following scale will be used to determine final grades, I will not round up final grades under any circumstances:**

A	=	93 – 100%			
A-	=	90 – 92%	C-	=	70 – 72%
B+	=	87 – 89%	D+	=	67 – 69%
B	=	83 - 86 %	D	=	63- 66%
B-	=	80 - 82 %	D-	=	60 – 62%
C+	=	77 - 79 %	E	=	0 – 59%
C	=	73 – 76%			

At any time, you may calculate your grade by adding up the number of points earned, dividing that sum by the number of points attempted, and multiplying the result by 100. Information about UF's current grading policies may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Our Class Policies

Late Work and Make ups:

An example: You have been very busy all week so you keep putting off taking that online quiz for your favorite class Legal Psychology. It is finally time for you to take the quiz so you put on your most comfortable Snuggie, crawl into your memory foam bed and turn on your notebook to take the quiz and then you say, “Son of a &^%*&!” because your internet goes out so you have no way of accessing the quiz now. You look at the clock and now there is only 20 minutes before the deadline so you don’t even have time go to a local Starbucks to access the internet. So you email me panicked, telling me about this horrible situation and plead for me to allow you to take the quiz late. Well unfortunately, unlike Lloyd Christmas who famously said “So you're telling me there's a chance. YEAH!”, you have NO chance of earning points for late work so please make sure you turn your assignments in on time. So please, please, please, please be responsible and make sure you do not wait until the last minute to do any of your graded assignments. Make-ups are not allowed under any circumstances, as I already allow you to drop your lowest quiz and discussion grades in case of any emergencies. Of note, if the Canvas website experiences course wide technical difficulties deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the [Dean of Students Office](#) . The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

U Matter, We Care: Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. *“Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an “E” for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing registration at UF, every student has agreed to the following statement: “I understand that UF expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”* Please make sure you understand the [UF Student Honor Code](#).

I Need Help!!!

Ok, so maybe you are not a very tech savvy person or Canvas is giving you some strange error message and when you google it you still can’t fix it. Don’t panic we are here to help 24/7! For technical issues like this you should contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2

[Submit a question via the Helpdesk website](#) If they are still of no help (which from my experience they are very helpful) then you should contact me Dr. Brian Cahill: brian.cahill@ufl.edu or the teaching assistant you have been assigned to using your last name (see the top of the syllabus for their contact info). Aside from technical help my teaching assistants and myself are here to help you however we can with course related questions. We love our jobs and our students very much so please don’t be afraid to ask for help! We are good at what we do and will do whatever we can to help you succeed in this course. However, when you email us please keep in mind a couple of things and I know this will come off as

condescending and I am sorry but you would put this in your syllabus if you received the kinds of inappropriate emails I receive from students on a regular basis: 1) Your emails should be formal when you write to us, we are not your brother/sister, bff, or bae so please address us properly using appropriate terms (e.g., Dr. Cahill, Professor Cahill), 2) We have hundreds of students in multiple classes so please give us your full name, what class you are in, and which section in every email you write to us, and 3) Please spell check your email and use proper grammar so we can understand your question/issue.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing [GatorRater online evaluations](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students on the [GatorRater Public Results page](#).

**EXP 3604 Cognitive Processes
Spring 2019
Course Schedule**

Module/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments (all Assignments Due at 11:59pm)
1 (1-7 to 1-13)	A Brief History of and current issues in Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 1	Due: Initial Post 1-10; Response Post 1-13 Due: Syllabus Quiz 1/10 Due: Quiz 1 1-13
2 (1-14 to 1-20)	Psychology and Perceptual Processes I	Chapter 2	Due: Quiz 2 1-20
3 (1-22 to 1-27)	Psychology and Perceptual Processes II	Chapter 3	Due: Initial Discussion Post 1-24; Response Post 1-27 Due: Quiz 3 1-27
Exam Rev. Week (1-28 to 2-3)			
4 (2-4 to 2-10)	Working Memory	Chapter 4	Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, and 3. Take between 12am and 11:59pm on 2-4 Due: Quiz 4 2-10
5 (2-11 to 2-17)	Long Term Memory	Chapter 5	Due: Initial Discussion Post 2-14; Response Post 2-17 Due: Quiz 5 2-17
Exam Rev. Week (2-18 to 2-24)			
6 (2-25 to 3-17)	Memory Strategies and Metacognition	Chapter 6	Exam 2: Chapters 4 and 4. Take between 12am and 11:59pm on 2-25 Due: Quiz 6 3-17
7 (3-18 to 3-24)	General Knowledge and Schemas	Chapter 8	Due: Initial Discussion Post 3-21; Response Post 3-24 Due: Quiz 7 3-24
8 (3-25 to 3-31)	Problem Solving	Chapter 11	Due: Quiz 8 3-31
Exam Rev. Week (4-1 to 4-7)			
9 (4-8 to 4-14)	Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making	Chapter 12	Exam 3: Chapters 6, 8, and 11. Take between 12am and 11:59pm on 4-8. Due: Initial Discussion Post 4-11; Response Post 4-14 Due: Quiz 9 4-14

10 (4-15 to 4-21)	Cog. Development Across the Lifespan	Chapter 13	Due: Quiz 10 4-21
Exam Rev. Week (4-22 to 4-28)			Exam 4: Chapters 12 and 13. Take between 12am and 11:59pm on 4-29