

University of Florida, Fall 2023
Exp 3604: Cognitive Psychology, Tuesdays 3:00PM – 6:00PM, Little Hall 0101

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Grad TAs: Saurabh Ranjan Liz Martinez-Margolles Offices: PSY236D (SR) & PSYXXX Email: saurabh.ranjan@ufl.edu lizamelimartinez@ufl.edu Office Hours: Mon 3pm-5pm (SR) Wed 10am-11am (LMM) Thu 11am-12pm (LMM)	Office Hours:	

COURSE FUNDAMENTALS

Course Overview

Cognitive psychology is the study of mental processes and how those processes influence behavior. Originally thought of as the “scientific study of knowledge,” cognitive psychology touches on all of the mental processes related to the acquisition, retention, and use of knowledge, including attention, perception, memory, language, problem-solving, and decision making. Given that mental processes are not directly observable, cognitive psychology is based on scientific studies in which participants’ observable behavior is used to infer the structures and limitations of these processes. This course will touch on several major mental processes, introducing you to key theories in each area and the scientific evidence that supports them. 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.

Course Objectives: Over the course of this semester, students will:

- Understand theories and experimental findings on topics such as perception, attention, memory, reasoning, and decision-making
- Experience classical experiments from cognitive psychology
- Acquire an understanding of research methods and the ability to critically evaluate research
- Apply research in cognitive psychology to everyday events and challenges

Required Materials

- Textbook
Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind (6th Ed.) by Daniel Reisberg
You will be required to read 1 chapter of this textbook each week.
- Supplemental Readings: Additional readings will be uploaded to Canvas

Online Course-Management System

You can access all course materials through the course website: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>
Important class updates and announcements will be posted online. You will be responsible for all class announcements made through canvas. Course Credit Hours: 3

COURSE MATERIALS, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCALES

Course Grades are based on the following:

Quizzes	-	90 pts (10 pts each)
MiniLabs	-	90 pts (10 pts each)
Research	-	40 pts
Exam 1	-	100 pts
Exam 2	-	100 pts
Final Exam	-	200 pts

Final letter grades in the course will be assigned according to the following percentage scale:

A	93.00-100	B+	87.00-89.99	C+	77.00-79.99	D	60.00-69.99
A-	90.00-92.99	B	83.00-86.99	C	73.00-76.99	E	00.00-59.99
		B-	80.00-82.99	C-	70.00-72.99		

Grades will be rounded to the nearest hundredth of a point and the stated letter grade cutoffs will be applied without exception. Current UF grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>. **There is no plan to “curve” grades in this course.** I reserve the right to adjust all students’ grades up by a set value if deemed appropriate, and grades will not be adjusted down under any circumstances.

Please note: a minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Lecture Notes/Outlines:

Class slides (in pdf or .ppt form) will be posted on the Canvas website prior to each lecture. You should look at them ahead of time. However, they are *NOT* a substitute for attending class, nor do they contain all information covered in class.

Course Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class. 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>. Although lecture slides will be posted, a lot of class time will be spent on discussions. Changes in the tentative schedule and assignments may be made in class, and if so, will be reflected in Canvas. If you miss any information by missing class, it is your responsibility to obtain it from your fellow students. Please realize that if you miss class for any reason, it is still your responsibility to (1) complete & submit assignments prior to the deadline and (2) get notes, assignments, and announcements that you missed from another student.

Quizzes

There will be 9 quizzes in this class. **Quizzes will be based on the textbook reading**, to ensure you are keeping up with the assigned material. **Assigned quizzes need to be completed BEFORE the lecture for the given day they are due.** You are allowed to take the quiz twice in Canvas, and they are open-book, since this is an unproctored assessment.

Exams

There are two mid-term exams and one final exam. All tests will consist of a combination of multiple choice & free-response questions. Make-up exams will be conducted following UF policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/examination-policies-reading-days/>). **Our exams will be taken in the assigned classroom during normal class hours. Please note the time for the final exam listed on the course schedule in this syllabus.**

Minilabs

Besides quizzes & exams, there will also be a few MiniLab activities to stimulate your critical thinking abilities about research in cognitive psychology. **MiniLab workdays will require in-class attendance.** To help you cultivate this skill, the first few assignments will be graded for completion (with feedback). After the first few assignments have been returned, the remaining assignments will be graded for content.

Contesting Scores

I will seriously consider any issues raised about the score of an exam or assignment. **You must submit concerns in writing (e-mail) within five school days of the score being made available to you.** Please clearly explain your reason for contesting the score. I will respond within three days of receiving the information from you.

HyFlex and Video (Zoom) Recordings: The online Zoom recording of our class sessions **may** be recorded to use as study aids, and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 of the [Student Honor Code](#).

Research Participation (SONA or Critical Analysis Papers)

Research is a fundamental component of psychological science. Learning about psychology involves learning about the research process, and research participation provides a hands-on opportunity to become familiar with how research is conducted. In order to earn research credit in this course, you either need to be a research participant on studies listed on SONA systems (which means you will sign up for the studies on-line) or write critical analysis papers on the “Going Deeper” articles that will be listed on Canvas each week. **We will discuss the details about how to complete these assignments throughout the course, and guides will be posted on Canvas about how to use SONA to earn research credit. DO NOT leave research participation until the last minute!!!** You should be earning this credit throughout the term.

UF POLICIES & RESOURCES

Student Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. 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.

Student Misconduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Student Health & Well-Being

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.
- **University Police Department:** Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608;
[Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352 392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)
- *On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading	Tasks Due/Quiz?
1	Aug 29	Introduction + What is Cognition?	Ch 1	
2	Sep 5	Neural Basis for Cognition	Ch 2	
3	Sep 12	Visual Perception	Ch 3	Quiz & MiniLab 1
4	Sep 19	Vision + Recognizing Objects	Ch 4	Quiz & MiniLab 2
5	Sep 26	Attention	Ch 5	Quiz & MiniLab 3
6	Oct 3	Exam 1		
7	Oct 10	Memory: Introduction	Ch 6	
8	Oct 17	Memory: Acquisition & Retrieval	Ch 7	Quiz & Minilab 4
9	Oct 24	Memory: Complex Events	Ch 8	Quiz & MiniLab 5
10	Oct 31	Concepts & Generic Knowledge	Ch 9	Quiz & MiniLab 6
11	Nov 7	Language	Ch 10	Quiz & MiniLab 7
12	Nov 14	Exam 2		
13	Nov 21	Visual Knowledge (ZOOM CLASS!)	Ch 11	
14	Nov 28	Judgment & Reasoning	Ch 12	Quiz & MiniLab 8
15	Dec 5	Problem Solving & Intelligence	Ch 13	Quiz + MiniLab 9
	Dec 12	FINAL EXAM (CUMULATIVE)		

*Each week, you need to read the textbook chapter BEFORE Tuesday's lecture.

*Additionally, each week, the Quizzes and MiniLab assignments are due BEFORE the start of each lecture. (Literally due the minute that the lecture starts)

Make-Up and Late Policy

NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN ON ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS COURSE, except for university excused absences with adequate documentation (i.e. doctor's note). Documentation should be provided at least 7 hours before the course material is due unless there are extenuating circumstances. Doctor's notes etc. must be provided as soon as possible. Makeups need to be completed no later than a week after the material was due (including weekends and holidays). Thus, if the material was due on Wednesday, then it must be completed by the following Wednesday unless there are extenuating circumstances. Late work is allowed on most individual assignments. **Individual assignments that are marked in canvas as such are allowed to be up to 3 days late but will have a penalty of 2.5 pts for each day.**

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/publicresults/>.

***Please see the last page of this syllabus for Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education Student Area Objectives, and General Education Student Learning Outcomes.**

Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education Student Area Objectives

Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions. These objectives will be accomplished through exams and assignments.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

<u>Category</u>	<u>Institutional Definition</u>	<u>Institutional SLO</u>
CONTENT	Content is the knowledge of the concepts, principles, terminology and methodologies used within the discipline	Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline. This is accomplished through exams and assignments.
COMMUNICATION	Communication is the development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms.	Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline. This is accomplished through MiniLab assignments.
CRITICAL THINKING	Critical thinking is characterized by the comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion	Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems through the creation of novel scientific paradigms. This is accomplished through exams and MiniLab assignments.