

**University of Florida**  
**Exp 3604: Cognitive Psychology, Fall 2025**  
**Tuesday 11:45am – 1:40pm, Pugh 170 / Thursday 12:50pm – 1:40pm, Pugh 170**

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Brian Odegaard</b>	<b>TAs:</b>	<b>Trevor Caruso (Grad), Joey Pruitt (Grad), and four undergraduate TA's, too.</b>
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E-mail:	<a href="mailto:bodegaard@ufl.edu">bodegaard@ufl.edu</a>	Office Hours:	Trevor: Wed 8:30-11:30am Joey: Wed 11am-2pm
Office Hours:	Fridays, 8-11am PSY 086 or by Zoom appt.		

## **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* (6<sup>th</sup> 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

**Course Website:** <http://elearning.ufl.edu>, **Course Credit Hours:** 3

### **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 MATERIALS, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCALES

### Course Grades are based on the following:

Videos/Articles	- TBD pts
MiniLabs	- 80 pts
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.

### 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.

**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.

### 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.

### Videos/Articles

In science, it is important to keep up to date on the research and ideas of peers and colleagues in the field. Thus, during different weeks throughout this semester, I am assigning either articles to read, or videos of lectures to watch. I will be reading/watching along with you during, and I will be responding to questions and comments in Perusall, which I will use to track engagement. This assignment takes the place of weekly take-home quizzes, which have been rendered useless in the age of Chat-GPT and other LLMs.

### 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.

### 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

Previously, this part of the syllabus was quite long, and featured sections on:

- In-Class recordings
- Student disabilities
- Student misconduct and the University Honesty Policy
- Student Health and Well-Being
- Academic Resources

There are found here! <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Check it out. If you have any questions about it, let me know.

### 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.ua.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.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/publicresults/>.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Task(s) Due?</b>
0	Aug 21	Introduction		
1	Aug 26 & 28	What is Cognition?	Ch 1	
2	Sep 2 & 4	Neural Basis for Cognition	Ch 2	MiniLab 1
3	Sep 9 & 11	Visual Perception	Ch 3	MiniLab 2
4	Sep 16 & 18	Vision + Recognizing Objects	Ch 4	MiniLab 3
5	Sep 23 & 25	Attention	Ch 5	
6	Sep 30 & Oct 2	Exam 1 (Sep 30) + Mem. Intro	Ch 6	
7	Oct 7 & 9	Memory: Acquisition & Retrieval	Ch 7	
8	Oct 14 & 16	Memory: Complex Events	Ch 8	MiniLab 4
9	Oct 21 & 23	Concepts & Generic Knowledge	Ch 9	MiniLab 5
10	Oct 28 & 30	Language	Ch 10	MiniLab 6
11	Nov 4 & 6	Exam 2 (Nov 4) + Vis Knowledge	Ch 11	
12	Nov 11 & 13	13th Only: Judgment & Reasoning	Ch 12	MiniLab 7
13	Nov 18 & 20	Problem Solving & Intelligence	Ch 13	MiniLab 8
14	Nov 25 & 27	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Week!		
15	Dec 2	Consciousness!	Ch 14	Video & Article
	Dec 12	FINAL EXAM (CUMULATIVE) 7:30-9:30am in Pugh Hall		

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

\*MiniLab assignments will be due on Saturday at 11:59pm of each week listed above, unless noted otherwise in class.

\*Videos/Articles will also be due on Saturday at 11:59pm of each week listed above.

\*Please note that the "Task(s) Due" section will likely be updated with a few additional videos and articles to read throughout the semester. I will make these announcements in class, and also add these assignments to the Canvas website.