
Professor: Dr. Brian Cahill

Department: Psychology

Office: 257 Psy

Office Hours: Wednesday's 1-4 or by appointment (**Zoom office hours only available to UFO students enrolled in section 3911**)

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Teaching Assistants: Graduate TA: Will Update when provided with this information

Office: Zoom Office hours only

Office Hours: Will Update when provided with this information

Class Communication expectations:

Please keep in mind that we need 48 hours to respond to all emails, NOT including weekends or holidays. Also, I am a big proponent of encouraging a work-life balance. As such, we will NOT respond to emails on Weekends or Holidays.

Course Description:

Cognitive Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes. This course will provide an introductory overview of the major topics in the field of cognitive psychology, 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. Further, this course will cover the major historical figures that laid the foundation for the empirical study of cognition. 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 (2023). *Cognition* (11th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Media: Docter, P., & Del Carmen, R. (2015). *Inside Out*. Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. The movie *Inside Out* by Disney.

*This course is participating in the UF ALL ACCESS program. **The ALL ACCESS program will allow you to gain access to the course materials at a significantly discounted price.** **Please see UF All Access PDF posted in in the course files for directions on how to opt-in and access your course materials. Go to <https://bsd.ufl.edu/allaccess> to log into your GatorLink account. You will see a list of classes in which you are enrolled that are participating in UF All Access, with the prices. Click the **Opt-in check box** next to the appropriate class. You may have more than one class that you are taking participating in the program. Students then need to click the button below to authorize the charges.*



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 (EST). Quizzes will be due on the last day of each module (i.e., Sunday at 11:59pm (EST)), while discussion posts will have 2 due dates (the first one usually on a Thursday and the last one on a Sunday). There may be exceptions to this pattern so please make sure you examine the class schedule carefully. Make sure you read the class schedule very carefully and mark all due dates in your calendar. **I tried to keep everything standardized as much as possible but because of breaks and Reading Days I was unable to keep it perfect so please keep this in mind.**

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 5; Exam 3 will cover chapters 6, 8, and 11; and Exam 4 will cover chapters 12 and 13. Each exam will be taken using HonorLock and remember you will NOT be allowed to use your book or notes. You will be given one hour 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. Your lowest exam score will be dropped, so $3 \text{ exams} \times 100 = 300$ points total.

Honorlock will proctor your exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at www.honorlock.com/extension/install

When you are ready to test, log into Canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "Launch Proctoring" will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them via live chat.

Please keep in mind that any violation of the academic code of conduct on exams or quizzes will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of an ethical decision making training course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then misconduct will result in an E grade in the course.

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 is 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 (EST). Please remember that you are to complete these quizzes independently and **any violation of the academic code of conduct on quizzes will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of an ethical decision making/plagiarism training course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then misconduct will result in an E grade in the course.** There will be 10 quizzes in total, one for each of the modules, each worth 5 points each (.5 points per question). Your lowest quiz score will be dropped, so $9 \text{ quizzes} \times (10 \text{ questions} \times .5 \text{ points each}) = 45$ points total.

Discussion Posts: Starting with module 3 we will have a discussion post every other module with the total number of posts being 4. 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 there will be 2 due dates for discussion posts (usually, the initial post is due on Thursday and the response post is due on Sunday, usually). 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 great discussions!!! Please remember that you are to complete these posts independently and **any violation of the academic code of conduct on discussion posts (e.g., plagiarism, posting a blank post to see other responses before posting your own post, etc.) will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of an ethical decision making/plagiarism training course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then misconduct will result in an E grade in the course.** To earn full points, make sure you **fully and accurately address each component in the initial post** and provide a **thoughtful** response to a fellow student's post that will generate further discussions. Each post will be worth a maximum of 20 points, so with 3 posts x 20 points = 60 points total, therefore, your lowest discussion grade will be dropped.

Reflection Assignment Papers: The goals of every class you take should be at least twofold: 1) Leave a more critical thinker and 2) Leave with more knowledge than you entered. In recent years I have realized that students often leave classes not realizing how much their thinking has changed over the course of the semester. Thus, I want you to do an assignment that I hope will help you actualize how much you learn in this class. For this assignment I want you to write an initial reflection paper (no more than 250 words) in which you will answer the following questions: In your own words describe what Cognitive Psychology? What can Cognitive psychology contribute to your daily life and to other areas of Psychology? How confident are you with your knowledge about how your cognitions work? You will answer these questions in an essay format and upload it to canvas (see the schedule for the due date). Initial reflection paper is worth 5 points (a detailed rubric is on canvas).

For this assignment you will read your initial reflection paper and then submit your final reflection paper (no more than 500 words) in which you will address the following question: How have your answers to the previous questions changed? That is, I want you to read your answers to the initial questions and then discuss in this paper how, if any, your answers have changed. You will answer this question in essay format and upload your paper to canvas (see the schedule for the due date). The final reflection paper is worth 10 points (a detailed rubric is on canvas). Please remember that you are to complete these papers independently and **any violation of the academic code of conduct on the papers (e.g., plagiarism) will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of an ethical decision making/plagiarism training course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then misconduct will result in an E grade in the course.**

SONA Participation Pool: Learning about Psychology requires reading, listening, and doing. As a supplement to lecture, you are required to participate in 7.5 hours of experimental research studies, or to complete an equivalent alternate assignment (see assignment on CANVAS for more details). There is a Psychology Department requirement that all students enrolled in Gen Psych, Personal Growth, or any 3000 level class participate in the SONA participation pool.

Please see the CANVAS assignment for very detailed instructions about this assignment. There is also a file uploaded to CANVAS called “SONA Participation Pool”. The deadlines for this requirement will be posted on the research requirement document and in the instructions in the assignment. Completion of this requirement affects your course grade based on the amount of research credits you earn. Do NOT wait until the last minute to complete this requirement. The longer you wait the harder it will be to get all the credits need! When you complete the research experience, you will receive 15 points that are added into your final grade. If you do NOT complete the full number of credits by the deadline, you will receive points at a rate of 1 point per credit completed. If you do not wish to participate in research then you may “opt in” for an alternative assignment, please see the Canas assignment for more details and due dates.

Grading Procedure:

Assessment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Exams	300	69%
Quizzes	45	11%
Discussion Posts	60	14%
Reflection Assignment Papers	15	3%
SONA Participation Pool	15	3%

Your final grade will include 3 exams, 9 quizzes, 3 posts, reflection assignment papers, and SONA Participation Pool. **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/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

Our Class Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those polices and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).

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 Cognitive 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 emailed 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. Please, please, please, be responsible and make sure you do not wait until the last minute to do any of your graded assignments. Of note, if the Canvas website experiences course wide technical difficulties deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments. However, issues with your equipment (e.g., your computer) do not qualify as a valid excuse to allow for the submission of late work.

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). **You must notify me before the course material is due unless there are serious extenuating circumstances that physically prevent you from doing so.** Proper documentation must be provided prior to making up the missed assignment. Lastly, make-ups 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 at 11:59pm unless there are significant extenuating circumstances. **Keep in mind that for assignments that are open for multiple days (e.g., quizzes, discussion posts) make-ups will only be allowed if the documentation for the university approved absence is for more than 50% of the assignment window. For example, if an assignment is open for 1 week you need to provide university approved documentation that you were unable to work for 4 days or more during the assignment window. Lastly, all work must be made up within 1 week of the original due date, unless there are significant extenuating circumstances that you can provide documentation for.** 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>.

Grade Disputes: For all graded assignments, you will have 1 week from the day your grades are released to dispute your grade, after which your grade will become final and can no longer be disputed. Obviously, just because you dispute your grade DOES NOT mean your grade will be changed in your favor. VERY IMPORTANT, keep in mind that if you request me to reevaluate your grade on an assignment, I will have to regrade your assignment which means your grade could increase, stay the same, or decrease based on my evaluation. Also, disputing your grade should not be a default reaction to any low grade you receive, please only pursue this route when you are confident that you can make a case that an error occurred. If you wish to dispute a grade you must email me to inform me that you wish to dispute your grade. Then you must attend office hours and be ready to provide a sound argument using the rubric and course material to support your claim. Lastly, any changes to grades will be made solely at the discretion of your professor.

Turnitin.com: Turnitin.com is a plagiarism detection service available to the faculty at UF. The website searches your paper for instances of plagiarism (from previously turned in papers, internet resources and publications). **Plagiarizing on any assignment in this course will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of a plagiarism decision training course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then plagiarism/misconduct on any assignment will result in an E grade in the course.** Please make sure you read the sections on plagiarism and misconduct in your Student Handbook and the APA manual. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism and misconduct are and any misunderstandings on your part may not be used as excuses.

Lastly, there have been recent advancements in the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and while many of these advancements are of benefit to society there exists serious pitfalls as well. One such pitfall is using AI to generate academic work for this class and then to submit it for grading as if YOU generated this work. To be clear, if you submit any work to this class for grading, that has been generated (in part or in whole) using any kind of AI program/computer program/chatbot/etc, under the guise that it is your OWN original work, then you will have committed academic misconduct and you will be reported to the university. Remember, **any form of academic misconduct within this class will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of a plagiarism/ethical decision making course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then plagiarism/misconduct on any assignment will result in an E grade in the course.** The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium. [UF Student Honor Code.](#)

EXP 3604 Cognitive Processes

Spring 2026

****Course Schedule****

Module/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments (all Assignments Due at 11:59pm (EST))
Start Here Page	General Course Information		Very Important: Must complete the following: syllabus quiz (score 100% on it), initial reflection paper (Score at least a 1 on it), makeup late work syllabus policy acknowledgement (Score a 1 on it), and do the introduce yourself discussion post to open up the rest of the modules
1 (1/12 – 1/18)	A Brief History of and current issues in Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 1	Due: Quiz 1 1/18
2 (1/20 – 1/25)	Psychology and Perceptual Processes I	Chapter 2	Due: Quiz 2 1/25
3 (1/26 – 2/1)	Psychology and Perceptual Processes II	Chapter 3	Due: Initial Discussion Post 1/29; Response Post 2/1 Due: Quiz 3 2/1
Exam Rev. Week (2/2 – 2/8)			
4 (2/9 – 2/15)	Working Memory	Chapter 4	Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, and 3. Take between 12am and 11:59pm (EST) on 2/9 Due: Quiz 4 2/15

5 (2/16 – 2/22)	Long Term Memory	Chapter 5	Due: Initial Discussion Post 2/19; Response Post 2/22 Due: Quiz 5 2/22
Exam Rev. Week (2/23 – 3/1)			
6 (3/2 – 3/8)	Memory Strategies and Metacognition	Chapter 6	Exam 2: Chapters 4 and 5. Take between 12am and 11:59pm (EST) on 3/2 Due: Quiz 6 3/8
7 (3/9 – 3/29)	General Knowledge and Schemas	Chapter 8	Due: Initial Discussion Post 3/12; Response Post 3/29 Due: Quiz 7 3/29
8 (3/23 – 3/29)	Problem Solving	Chapter 11	Due: Quiz 8 3/29
Exam Rev. Week (3/30 – 4/5)			
9 (4/6 – 4/12)	Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making	Chapter 12	Exam 3: Chapters 6, 8, and 11. Take between 12am and 11:59pm (EST) on 4/13 Due: Initial Discussion Post 4/9; Response Post 4/12 Due: Quiz 9 4/12
10 (4/13 – 4/19)	Cog. Development Across the Lifespan	Chapter 13	Due: Quiz 10 4/19 Due: Final Reflection paper 4/19
Exam Rev. Week (4/20 – 4/26)			Due: SONA Participation Pool 4/22 Exam 4: Chapters 12 and 13. Take between 12am and 11:59pm (EST) on 4/27

This schedule is tentative and subject to change