

Spring 2016  
Syllabus Draft

# PSY 350: Cognitive Psychology



Shulan Lu, Ph.D.

## Selected Policy Highlights

NO late work will be accepted.

NO cheating will be tolerated.

RESPECT your peers.

RESPECT your professor.

NO makeup exam except emergency as described.

Respond to class communication.

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## Why does this course exist? Course Aims and Outcomes

Cognition is extraordinarily central in every human's daily life.

Cognitive approach has widespread influence on other areas of psychology.

Your mind is an impressively sophisticated piece of equipment. As the owner of this equipment, do you want to check out *user's manual* as you would do with your favorite gadgets?

An overview of cognitive psychology as science: basic concepts and theories, research methods, and applications in real world.

- How to learn?
- Perception, Attention, & Consciousness
- Working memory, & Long-term Memory
- Memory strategies
- Mental Imagery & Cognitive Maps

- Knowledge representation
- Language
- Problem Solving & Creativity
- Reasoning and Decision Making
- Cognitive Development

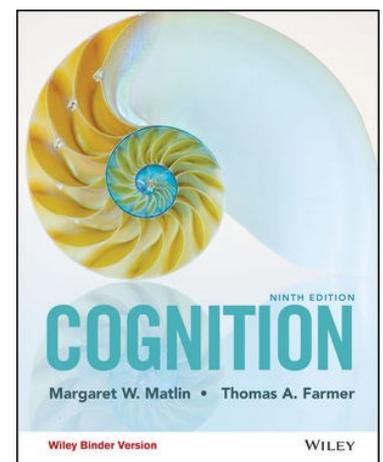


User Manual

## Required Materials

1. Matlin, M. & Farmer, T. A. (9th Ed). Cognition. Wiley.

It is considered the *most readable undergraduate cognition textbook*. I cannot emphasize enough of the importance that you **consult with your user's manual**, the textbook.



## Required Materials Continued

2. Fast and reliable Internet Connection.

3. Study Time.

This is a 3 credit hour class. You should prepare to spend at least 7 hours of study time per week. Individuals vary in the amount of time they need.

4. Good computer.




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“Whilst part of what we perceive comes through our senses from the object before us, another part (and it may be the larger part) always comes out of our own mind.”

[William James, \*The Principles of Psychology\*](#)

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## Grade Evaluation 1: Learning Engagement Quizzes

It is assumed that you will attend and actively participate during all class activities.

This class will employ active learning strategies by having you quiz yourself.

Plan to complete a quiz on Tues and Thurs respectively.

Each of them will cover the different parts of a topic under discussion.

Splitting a topic into

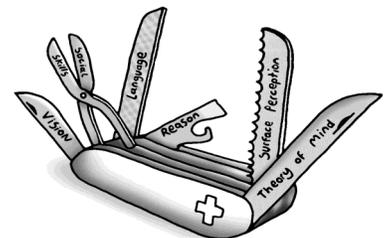
chunks will reduce your workload each time and make it more manageable / memorable.

## Grade Evaluation 2: Assignments

Many of the assignments will be learning about the cognition experiments in the 1st person perspective and make connections with the theoretical constructs.

This course emphasizes

the application of cognitive psychology. The one personally relevant application will be on learning how to learn.



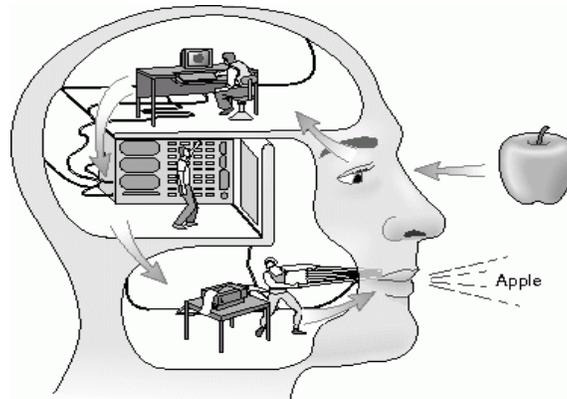
Mind as Swiss army knife

## Grade Evaluation 3: Exams

The questions will be based on **the text and lecture materials posted in eCollege.**

Please do attend to the materials posted in eCollege, including video clips!

The questions will be mostly multiple-choice questions.



Mind as computer information processing

## Coursework Policy

All quizzes and exams are to be *taken closed-book*.

**You are not allowed to take any quiz, exam or submit an assignment after its respective deadline, unless you notify me**

of extenuating circumstances and **I give permission in advance.**

In case of **unforeseen medical emergency**, contact me or Dept ASAP. When *official documentation* is pro-

vided, you can do a make-up.

No incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that find satisfactory, it is *your responsibility to drop it*.

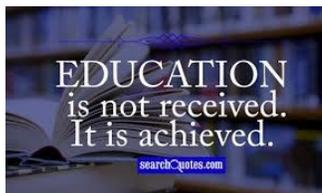
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"Every act of perception, is to some degree an act of creation, and every act of memory is to some degree an act of imagination."

*Oliver Sacks, Musicophilia: La musique, le cerveau et nous*

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## Other Important Basics



Let's achieve it!

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets

underway. I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class.

Please check your course at least once a day.

Dishonesty (broadly defined) is not allowed. This means that *neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated*.

Students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct.

## Other Important Basics

The university likes me to say: “**All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.**” (See **Student’s Guide Handbook**).

Examples of academic dishonesty:

*Collusion* (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing assignments.

Using, *during any academic exercise*, material and/or devices not authorized by the person in charge of the test;

Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in its entirety or in part, the contents of a test or other assignment unauthorized for release;

Substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for oneself.

*Success is based on accomplishment, not effort — but no accomplishment is attained ever without effort.*

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things,

this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an

accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library**  
**Room 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150**

“Every act of perception, is to some degree an act of creation, and every act of memory is to some degree an act of imagination.”

*Oliver Sacks, Musicophilia: La musique, le cerveau et nous*

## Inclusivity Statement



**It’s just better when we are all together.**

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online

courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an envi-

ronment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.



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## Netiquette: Communication Courtesy Code

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please take a moment and read the following link concerning "netiquette".

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

### Disclaimer:

**While I make every effort to abide by the information presented in this syllabus, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time.**

## Tentative Schedule of Topics

### JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 WK 1	18	19 Practice Quiz	20	21 How to Learn Quiz	22	23 How to Learn HW1 Quiz
24 WK 2	25 Ch 1	26 Quiz	27	28 Quiz	29	30
31 WK 3						

## FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Ch 2	2 Quiz	3	4 Quiz	5	6 HW2
7 WK 4	8 Ch3	9 Quiz	10	11 Quiz	12	13
14 WK 5	15 How to Learn	16 HW 3 Quiz	17	18 Review	19	20 <b>Exam 1</b>
21 WK 6	22 How to Learn	23 Quiz	24	25 Quiz	26	27 HW4
28 WK 7	29 Ch 4 WM Ch 5 LTM					

## MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 WM Quiz	2	3 LTM Quiz	4	5
6 WK 8	7 Ch 5 Ch 6	8 LTM Quiz	9	10 Strategy Quiz	11	12 HW 5
13 WK 9	14 Spring Break!	15 Enjoy!	16	17	18	19
20 WK 10	21 Ch 7	22 Quiz	23	24 Quiz	25	26 HW 6
27 WK 11	28 Ch 8	29 Quiz	30	31 Quiz		

## APRIL 2016

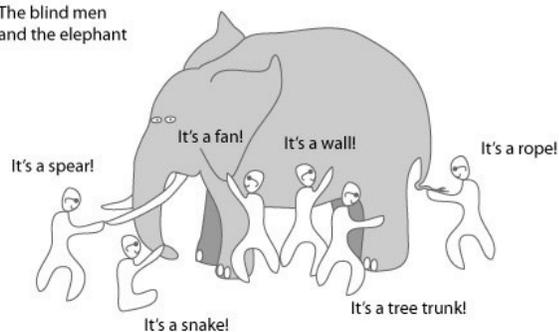
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 WK 12	4 Review	5 HW 7	6	7 Review Practice	8	9 <b>Exam 2</b>
10 WK 13	11 Language Pinker	12 Quiz	13	14 Quiz	15	16 HW 8
17 WK 14	18 Ch 11	19 Quiz	20	21 Quiz	22	23
24 WK 15	25 Ch 12	26 Quiz	27	28 Quiz	29	30 HW 9

## MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 WK 16	2 Metaphor of Cognition	3 HW 10	4	5 Review	6	7 Exam 3
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

How mind works?

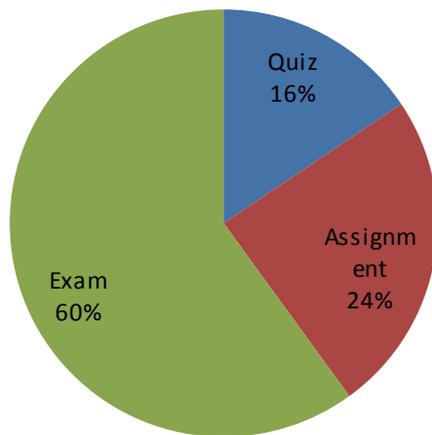
The blind men and the elephant



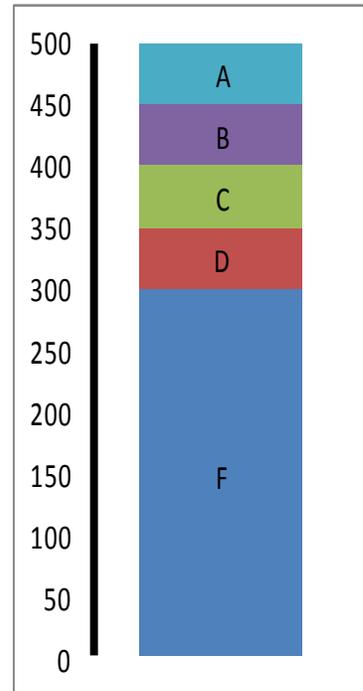
## Tentative Schedule Notes:

The weekly total grade point overview illustrated under Sunday of each week does not include extra credit assignments.

### Grade Evaluation: Point Distribution



### Grading



### Notes: (approximately)

Each quiz: 3pts

Each assignment: 10-20 pts

Each exam: 100 pts