

Summer 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
- Mental Imagery & Cognitive Maps
- Knowledge repre-

sentation

- Language
- Problem Solving & Creativity
- Reasoning and Decision Making

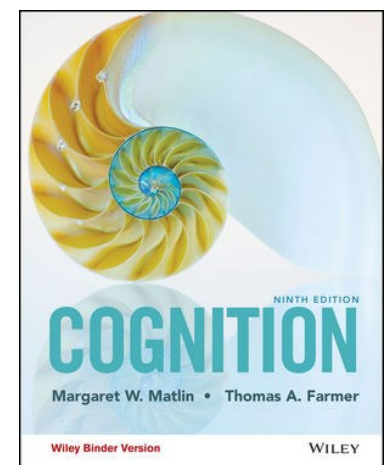


User Manual

Required Materials

1. Matlin, M, & Farmer, T. (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 topic. Individuals vary in the amount of time they need.

4. Good computer.



“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*](#)

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 and teaching you study

methods.

Plan to complete each quiz on schedule.

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

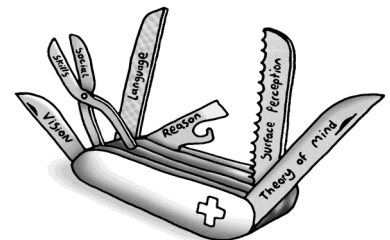
Splitting a topic into chunks will reduce your workload each time and make it more manageable / memorable.

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.



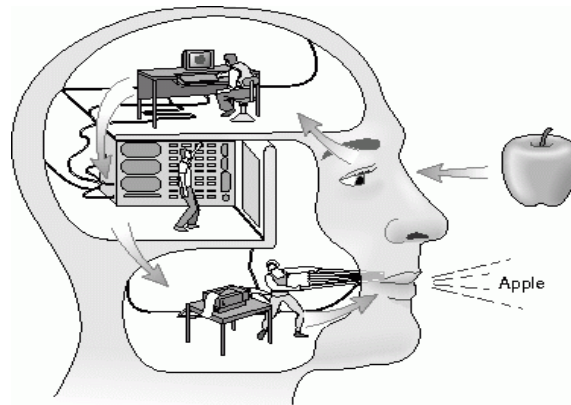
Mind as Swiss army knife

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*.

"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

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

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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.



Shulan Lu, Ph.D.
Henderson 218
Department of Psychology, Counseling and Special Education
Phone: 903-468-8628
Fax: 903-886-5510
E-mail: shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

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:

To succeed in our class, you must follow the schedule. Occasionally unexpected events occur, and you have 24 hour window to make up.

Plan the last week of class ahead, as it ends by Thursday 5pm. In other words, you don't have makeup time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

JUNE 2016

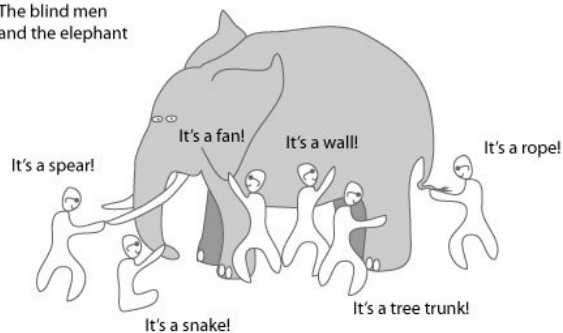
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Organization How to Learn	7 How to Learn	8 Chap 1 U1	9 Chap 1 U2	10 Chap 2 U1	11 Chap 2 U2
12 Chap 2 HW	13 Chap 3 U1	14 Chap 3 U2	15 How to Learn	16 How to Learn	17 Review	18 Exam 1
19 Extra Credit How to Learn	20 Chap 4 U1	21 Chap 4 U2	22 Chap 5 U1	23 Chap 5 U2 Extra Credit	24 Chap 7 U1	25 Chap 7 U2
26 Chap 7 HW	27 Chap 8 U1	28 Chap 8 U2	29 Review	30 Exam 2		

JULY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Language P1	2 Language P2 U1
3 Language P2 U2	4 Chap 11 U1	5 Chap 12 U1	6 Review	7 Exam 3	8	9

How does mind work?

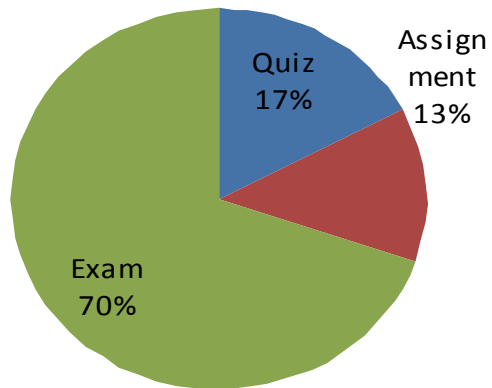
The blind men and the elephant



Grade Evaluation Notes:

The following distribution is tentative. The number of quizzes and assignments could be adjusted.

Grade Evaluation: Point Distribution



Grading

