



Introduction to Human Cognition PSY 620
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024, HEN 207
M 4:30-7:10 pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shulan Lu, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

Office Hours: Via email and Zoom

University Email Address: shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: I will reply to your email within 24-48 hours during the week. It will take longer if you email me during the weekend.

If you have any questions or concerns about our class, please ALWAYS contact me first. If we cannot reach solution, I will refer you to Dept Head.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Reisberg, D. (2022). *Cognition: Exploring the science of the mind*. 8th Ed. Norton

Course Description

Cognition is extraordinarily central in every human's life. Cognitive approach has widespread influence on all 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?

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

This course offers an overview of cognitive psychology: basic concepts and theories, research methods, and applications in the real world.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to appreciate the metaphors and the approaches to the scientific understanding of human mind.
2. Students will be able to appreciate and to some extent follow the discourse appropriate to how cognitive psychologists communicate about the scientific study of human mind.
3. Students will gain an overview of how psychologists test, interpret, and demonstrate concepts, theories and principles in empirical data.
4. Students will enhance reading prowess by diving into textbook sections, unlocking the essentials of concepts, examples, and evidence.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

In addition to be able to use Microsoft Office or equivalent, Socrative app, and LMS, refer to the skills listed below.

<https://carleton.ca/online/online-learning-resources/essential-technological-skills/>

Instructional Methods

This course is face-to-face. During class, we will have lectures, demonstrations, discussions and practice questions. We all come to this course with a variety of experiences, responsibilities, needs, and feelings. This means we have much to learn from each other, but it also means that we may all learn differently and at different paces. I practice a “whole learner” approach to instruction. This means that all learners in our classroom (myself included) are not just students/instructors, but people with outside lives that will both inform and possibly sometimes interfere with this class. As such, the course policies below

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

offer some flexibilities such as coursework makeup. Our policies offer flexibility, but also ask for accountability. Both are integral to creating a productive learning experience for our entire classroom community.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Throughout our course, we will learn the science of how to learn and practice them. The following are some basics.

- 1) Check and read class emails promptly for announcements, updates, clarifications, etc.
- 2) Take notes as you listen to lectures, read the assigned parts of the textbook to check if your listening comprehension matches with the textbook descriptions, and fill in the missing pieces.
- 3) Quiz yourself often. Can you define a concept in your own words? Can you answer 3 or 4 questions of the textbook practice questions correctly?
- 4) Review the materials on a regular basis. Consider the Pomodoro technique. Set aside 20-25 minutes each time and study.
- 5) Complete coursework.
- 6) Complete hands-on activity following the time announced.

GRADING

To be on the safe side, assume that I grade on a numerical scale. However, I reserve the right to reward exemplary attendance and participation.

A = 90-100%

B < 90%

C < 80%

D < 70%

F < 60%

Questions about Grades: Any questions about a grade for a particular assignment, quiz, or exam should be brought to my attention within a week of the particular grade being posted.

Makeup exams and assignments

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

If you become sick, please schedule to retake the assignments within two weeks of the due date and provide documentation of your illness.

If you are traveling and representing the university (e.g., band members, athletes, etc.) you need to request accommodations BEFORE the exam or assignment is due, not after.

Assessments

Unless authorized by instructor, students are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source, including artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT.

Students must reply to the instructor's email concerning the integrity of their coursework within three business days and schedule a meeting with the instructor within one week from the date of the initial contact email.

Learning Engagement. Professionalism and Good Conduct:

Engagement is the heart of this course, as it is how we learn the most from each other; therefore, it is imperative that all students attend class and actively contribute ideas and reflections. Class session attendance is required and will be a part of your course grade as outlined on the syllabus. For each class session, please observe the following.

1. While anyone can be late on rare occasions, habitual lateness is unacceptable. Also once in class, be prepared to stay for the entire class period.

If you must miss a class, you are responsible for what transpires during class sessions whether you are there or not.

2. Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views. Demonstrate professionalism when interacting with all members of our class.
3. Our class is held once a week. Students will have one freebie absence.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

4. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions.
Demonstrate your reading of our textbook.

This part will be largely based on my observations, notes and impressions.

Learning Engagement Total: approx. 10%

Retrieval Practice and Demo via Socrative:

Please download Socrative at your mobile phone or laptop. These socrative questions will help you to assess your understanding of material presented on that day of class or your memory for information presented in previous classes. **If you forget to bring the app device or if your batteries are dead, you cannot obtain credit for that day of class. We will not have Socrative make-up. However, we will drop 2 lowest Socrative scores.**

Socrative Total: approx. 20%

Assignments: *To align with the 3 learning outcomes, in particular, Learning Outcome 3,* there will be hands-on learning experiences, questions making connections to the theoretical concepts, or questions regarding the applications of cognitive psychology. **This part of coursework is NOT meant to entirely overlap with exams. It is meant to supplement what a typical exam could not do.**

Assignment Total: approx. 20%

Presentation: *To align with the 3 learning outcomes, in particular, Learning Outcome 2 and 3.* Students are expected to do one presentation of the assigned reading. The grading rubric will be made available 2 weeks prior to the presentation.

Presentation Total: approx. 10%

Exams: *The questions align with each of the 3 learning outcomes, in particular, Learning Outcome 1, 2, and 3.* There are 3 exams. **There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations.** If for some REAL emergency you must miss an exam, make sure that you contact me BEFORE the exam. When **official documentation** is provided, you can do a make-up.

Exam Total: approx. 40%

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic / Chapter
1	Jan 29	Overview, Ch 1
2	Feb 5	Recognizing objects, Ch 4
3	Feb 12	Paying Attention, Ch 5
4	Feb 19	Acquisition of memories and working memory, Ch 6
		Exam 1
5	Feb 26	Types of memory, Ch 7
6	Mar 4	Remembering complex events, Ch 8
7	Mar 11	Spring break
8	Mar 18	Concepts and generic knowledge, Ch 9
9	Mar 25	Language
		Exam 2
10	Apr 01	Visual Knowledge, Ch 11
11	Apr 08	Judgement and decision making, Ch 12
12	Apr 15	Problem solving, Ch 13
13	Apr 22	Intelligence, Ch 14
14	Apr 29	Conscious thought, unconscious thought, Ch 15
15	May 06	Final

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Typically, I will respond to your emails within 24 hours from Mon to Fri. It will take longer during the holidays and weekends. I can also meet with you via Zoom. Please do not hesitate to contact me you have any questions.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities– ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Notice

Texas A&M University-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 environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rule_sProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel