



PSY 350 , Cognitive Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS
Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

Office Hours: by appointment

Office: Henderson: Henderson 220

University Email Address: shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

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

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours Monday-Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer than 48 hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Chun, M., & Most, S. (2022). *Cognition*. Oxford University Press.

No individual textbook purchases! The University has set up the inclusive access for our class. All you need to do is to log into D2L and follow the instructions to access the Oxford Learning Link Resources, including the ebook.

"Exploring the pages of scientific textbooks isn't just education; it's an exhilarating journey where curiosity meets discovery, turning learning into an adventure." - Carl Sagan

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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?

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- 1) Students will enhance reading prowess by diving into textbook sections, unlocking the essentials of concepts, examples, and evidence.
- 2) Students will appreciate the metaphors and the approaches to the scientific understanding of human mind.
- 3) Students will appreciate and to some extent follow the discourse appropriate to how cognitive psychologists communicate about the scientific study of human mind.
- 4) Students will gain an overview of how psychologists test, interpret, and demonstrate concepts, theories and principles in empirical data.
- 5) Students will nurture scientific thinking. This is an approach to information that combines a high degree of *skepticism* (questioning what "everybody knows"), followed by *objectivity* (using empirical data to separate fantasy from reality) and *rationalism* (practicing logical reasoning).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You need to be able to use the following.

- Oxford Learning Cloud
- Microsoft Office or equivalent
- D2L
- Pdf

In addition, refer to the following.

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

Instructional Methods (Online Class)

Oliver Sacks delved into the human mind and cognition through extensive clinical observations and a deep understanding of neurological conditions, sharing his insights in books like "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat."

Similarly, students can immerse themselves by exploring real-world stories and observations provided by the textbook and professor. Additionally, engaging with their own observations

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through the Discovery Lab in the Oxford learning resources and personal case experiences contributes to a richer understanding of cognitive phenomena.

Just like Sacks, this isn't your typical theory class – it's a thrilling adventure into the fascinating world of cognitive phenomena, making learning a blast!

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Your attendance is a significant factor in student course grades. Start with attending our class and do the following basics.

- 1) Check and read class emails promptly for announcements, updates, clarifications, class zoom meetings etc.
- 2) Unlock the full potential of your learning journey! Actively engage with the textbook – embrace the textbook resources such as “Think for Yourself” and tackle the section and summary questions.
- 3) Start small! Break your study sessions into shorter, spaced intervals over time rather than cramming. Utilize Pomodoro by setting a timer for focused work (10-15 minutes) followed by a short break (5 minutes). Repeat this cycle, and watch your retention and productivity soar!
- 4) Don't wait till the last minute!

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Makeup exams and assignments

If you become sick, you must schedule to retake the assignments within 10 days of the due date and must 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.

If you encounter any technical problems when you take any timed tests or assignments online, take screenshots and email me immediately for potential makeups.

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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.

1. Learning Engagement Activities: estimated 55 points

Engagement is the heart of this course; therefore, it is imperative that all students follow the course instructions and engage in learning activities.

Learning engagement will be assessed through the following two components:

- a) students' performance on the learning engagement quizzes.
- b) instructor's assessment of students' engagement in varied formats, including demonstrations of the syllabus listed course policy and applications of the learning guidance offered by the instructor.

Disruptive behavior or disrespect toward other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. At the very least, it will cost a letter grade, and is subject to further penalty.

Main focused *student learning outcomes*: SLO1, SLO 3, SLO4

2. "READ ME QUOTE ME" posts: estimated 45 points

Engage in the joy of learning each week by responding to the thought-provoking questions related to the assigned topics. Showcase your understanding by incorporating pertinent quotes from the assigned textbook readings and articulating your unique interpretations.

As the famous author Roald Dahl once remarked, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Revel in the joy of weaving your own interpretations into the fabric of knowledge, creating a tapestry uniquely yours.

Main focused *student learning outcomes*: SLO1, SLO2, and SLO3.

3. Exams: Estimated 200 points

There are four exams in the course. 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.

Main focused *student learning outcomes*: SLO3, SLO4, and SLO5.

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Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	7/08	Syllabus / Orientation	
2	7/10	Course set up / Ch 1	
3	7/12	Ch 3 Perception	
4	7/15	Review: READ ME 1	Exam 1
5	7/17	Ch 4 Attention	
6	7/19	Ch 6 & 7 Memory	
7	7/22	Ch 5 Cognitive control & working memory	
9	7/24	Review: READ ME 2	Exam 2
10	7/26	Ch 8 Language & communication	
11	7/29	Ch 9 Judgement & Decision making	
12	7/31	Ch 10 Reasoning & problem solving	
13	8/02	Review: READ ME 3	Exam 3
15	8/05	Ch 11 Knowledge	
16	8/07	Review	Final Exam

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

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LMS Requirements:

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

LMS Browser Support:

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 if 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.

Academic Honesty

Unless authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source, including artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you are not allowed to submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course.

Contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

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](#).

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](#).

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:

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[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 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

AI Use in Course

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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

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Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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

Nondiscrimination 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/rulesProcedures/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 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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