PSY 350, 01E, & Cognitive Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024
M, W, F 10-10:50 am; DTH 203

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shulan Lu
Office Location: Henderson 220
Office Hours: MTWF 1:30 pm-2:30 pm (In person) & TH: 1:30-2:30 (Zoom) or by appointment
Office Phone: 903.468.8628
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 our Department Head.

Communication Response Time: Typically I can respond within 1-2 days of receiving the message on the normal Monday through Friday weekday schedule, however, during weekends and holidays this process might be longer.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook 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

Software Required
Microsoft office; D2L; pdf; Socrative

Course Description

Cognition is extraordinarily central in every human's life. Cognitive approach has widespread influence on all other areas of psychology. You 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

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

Research Participation:

A goal of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at our university, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must undergo and complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any absences, you will receive 2 free *"punctual participant credits"*. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a pre-screen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the pre-screen within the first two weeks of the semester you will receive half of a free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth half credit.

You are only permitted to complete 50% of your experiment/research credits via online studies, the remaining credits need to be completed via in-person lab studies. Each week there are lab study schedules posted. Signing up in advance and show up on time is very crucial.

More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is given in D2L course module.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You need to be able to use the following:

- Microsoft Office (or an equivalent to such)
- Socrative app
- D2L
- PDF

In addition, refer to the following.

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

Instructional Methods

This course is a face-to-face class. I cannot emphasize enough the value of collective listening, which is articulated so well by Professor Monessa Cummins at Grinnell College, as seen down below.

"Can [students] listen to a political candidate with a critical year? Can they go and listen to their minister with an analytical ear? Can they listen to one another? One of the things a lecture does is build that habit."

During our lectures, we will focus on deepening your understanding of the important concepts and theories through this lecturing time, demonstrations, and class discussions. Prior to each week's lecture, you will be expected to complete the reading materials before the class.

Student Responsibilities /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, 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 15-20 minutes each day and study. Do at least 3 Pomodoro sessions each week. (If you are interested in this technique, I would recommend checking out the website "pomofocus.io") While this technique can be useful to any student, depending on your needs, you may need to do more sessions per week. For more details, refer to *"Secrets of Student Success"* in our textbook Ch1.

5) Complete assigned coursework on time.

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

Assessments

If you become sick, you must schedule to retake the assigned exam within 3 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 <u>BEFORE</u> the exam or assignment is due, not after.

Unless authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source, including artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT. Students must reply to instructor's email concerning the integrity of their coursework within 2 business days and schedule a meeting with the instructor within 4 business days from the date of the initial contact email.

Learning engagement & Retrieval Practice: estimated 30 points

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.

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.

Lastly, be respectful toward all members of the class and their views.

Retrieval Practice: This class will employ active learning strategies. The practice questions will help you to assess your understanding of the 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 make-up. However, we will drop the 4 lowest scores.

Learning engagement will be assessed via your performance on the retrieval practice questions, your participation in discussions, and my assessment of your class participation.

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.

"READ ME QUOTE ME" posts: estimated 30 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.

Integrative Assignments: estimated 30 points

Usually, integrative assignments offer chances for students to link theoretical concepts with real-world applications in cognitive psychology.

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

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.

On each of the exam days, students must bring fully charged functioning devices with them to take the exam.

It is students' responsibilities to check whether the device, software and passwords for accessing D2L in advance. Exams are closed book.

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

Research Participation via Sona: estimated 10 points

See the descriptions on Research Participation described earlier on pp.3. The alternative to Sona research participation will be to complete the original 2-page article summary for each credit hour. The instructions and assigned articles can be found on D2L. If you choose to do the research alternative instead of the research studies, the article summaries will be due Nov 30, 2024.

Tentative Schedule

Agenda	Date	Topic	Notes
1	08/26	Syllabus / Orientation	eBook access resolved
2	08/28-09/04	Ch 1	
3	09/06-09	Ch 3 Perception	READ ME 1
4	09/11-13	Ch 3 Imagery	
5	09/16-18	Assignment A1	**Exam 1**
6	09/20-27	Ch 4 Attention	
7	09/30-10/04	Ch 6 & 7 Memory	READ ME 2
8	10/07-10/11	Ch 5 Control & working memory	
9	10/14-10/16	Assignment A2	**Exam 2**
10	10/18-10/23	Ch 8 Language & communication	
11	10/25-11/01	Ch 9 Judgement & Decision making	READ ME 3
12	11/04-11/08	Ch 10 Reasoning & problem solving	
13	11/11-11/13	Assignment A3	**Exam 3**
14	11/15-11/20	Ch 11 Knowledge	
15	11/22-12/02	Ch 12 Social cognition or Ch10 remaining	
16	12/09	Final Exam	**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

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.

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

Communication and Support

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

<h2 style="text-align:center">Interaction with Instructor Statement</h2>

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.

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 can be found at https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/.

 If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/

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

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 student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

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.

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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5930
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Website: http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to

download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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

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.