



PSY 350-01H, Cognitive Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jessica Udry, Ph.D.

Office Location: HEN 201A

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 12:00pm-2:30pm in person

University Email Address: Jessica.Udry@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email **Communication Response**

Time: Within one business day.

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.

Other Books:

Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning by Peter Brown, Henry Roediger III, & Mark McDaniel. ISBN: 978-0674729018

"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

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

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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

Instructional Methods

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

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.

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- 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.
- 5) Complete assigned coursework on time.
- 6) Please contact me when you have questions. The material is difficult, and no one learns everything perfectly the first time through. This class, and your time, is too important for you to spend time getting frustrated instead of learning

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

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Exams | 50% |
| <i>Make it Stick</i> Reflections | 20% |
| Cognition in the Real-World Paper | 15% |
| Weekly Reading Quizzes | 15% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Makeup exams and assignments

Late submissions are not accepted for most assignments. The only exception to this is the cognition in the real-world paper. If you need an extension on this assignment for any reason, you must let me know **before** the deadline. Late assignments will be accepted for 10% off per day late.

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.

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

Assessments

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

1. Make it Stick Reflections 20%

During this semester, we will be reading the book *Make it Stick*. This is a book written by cognitive psychologists explaining how cognitive psychology principles can be applied to help improve your learning. For every chapter, you will write a brief 1-2 paragraph summary of the ideas presented in the chapter with an explanation of how you will apply these ideas to your own studying. One of these reflections will be dropped at the end of the semester.

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

2. Cognition in the Real-World Paper 15%

This paper will give you the opportunity to apply concepts we learn in this class to the real world. In this 500-750 word paper you will pick a cognitive concept of your choosing and explain how it relates to a real-life topic. More information about this assignment will be given later in the semester.

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

3. Weekly Reading Quizzes 15%

Every week there will be a 10-question reading quiz. The purpose of these quizzes is to give you practice with the material. As the goal of these is to promote learning, you may attempt these quizzes up to 3 times. Only your highest attempt will count. Two reading quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester.

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

4. Exams 50%

There are four exams in the course. At the end of the semester, your lowest exam score will be dropped. In other words, only your three highest exam scores will count towards your grade. Make up exams are not allowed under ANY circumstances. The dropped exam is incorporated in the course to account for any absences on exam days.

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

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| <u>Week/Module</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Chapter 1: What is cognitive psychology? |
| 2 | Chapter 3: Perception and mental imagery |
| 3 | Chapter 4: External Attention |
| 4 | Review and Exam 1 |
| 5 | Chapter 5: Cognitive Control and Working Memory |
| 6 | Chapter 6: Everyday Memory |
| 7 | Chapter 7: Memory Systems |
| 8 | Review and Exam 2 |
| 9 | Chapter 8: Language and Communication |
| 10 | Chapter 9: Judgment and Decision Making |
| 11 | Chapter 10: Reasoning and Problem Solving |
| 12 | Review and Exam 3 |
| 13 | Chapter 11: Knowledge, Intelligence and Cognitive Development |

14

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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 one business day. I can also schedule a meeting 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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:

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/
rulesProcedures/documents/](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/)

[13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

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<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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](#)

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>

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&MCommerce 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