



Introduction to Human Cognition PSY 620

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025
M 4:30-7:10 pm, **Zoom**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shulan Lu, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
Office Hours: Mon (2-4pm); Wed (2-4pm); and Fri (3-4pm).
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

Don't buy the textbook anywhere else. We must purchase it from Perusall, which is integrated with D2L. Once you log into D2L, click the Perusall and it will take you to complete the textbook purchase!

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?

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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, Perusall, and LMS, refer to the skills listed below. **Ensure you have reliable internet connection!**

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

Instructional Methods

This course is conducted through synchronous Zoom meetings. During class, we will have lectures, demonstrations, discussions, practice questions & student mini-presentations. 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 offer some flexibilities such as coursework makeup. Our policies

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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. **Ensure reliable Internet connection.**

- 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 grade being posted.

Makeup exams and assignments

If you become sick, please schedule to retake the assignments within two weeks of the due date and

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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.

Socialized Reading Comprehension & Annotations:

Perusall transforms your reading experiences! You will log into Perusall before class and take notes as you read the textbook. Make notes of what does and does not make sense. Answer questions at the end of the section. If you don't understand things, that is fine. We will go over things and apply the information class. However, if you are not making an effort and not taking notes and engaging with the textbook (Perusall has a way of tracking this), then you will not receive points. Most importantly, if you did not do the readings, you will not get full credit for the in-class learning engagement. The two lowest annotation grades will be dropped.

Socialized Reading Comprehension and Annotations: approx. 10%

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 occasional lateness can happen, habitual tardiness is unacceptable unless previously arranged due to extenuating circumstances. Once in class, be prepared to stay for the entire class period. Students are expected to have their cameras on for 70-80% of the class time.
- 2) If you must miss a class, you are responsible for what transpires during class sessions whether you are there or not.
- 3) Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views. Demonstrate professionalism when interacting with all members of our class.

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4) Our class is held once a week. Students will have one freebie absence.

5) Participate in class learning activities and discussions.

6) Demonstrate your reading of our textbook

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

Learning Engagement Total: approx. 10%

Mini presentation: To align with Learning Outcomes 3 and 4, each student is expected to give six mini-presentations. Each presentation will cover selected concepts, theories, or experiments. Students must prepare a PowerPoint outline and have their camera on while presenting.

1) Each mini presentation should not last longer than five minutes.

2) Slides should use bullet points and include diagrams, charts, or illustrations where appropriate.

3) Slides should not contain large blocks of text for students to read during the presentation.

4) Students should demonstrate their understanding through QAs with me and the class.

Mini presentation Total: approx. 18%

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. 12%

Exams: The questions align with each of the three learning outcomes, in particular, Learning Outcome 1, 2, and 3. There are 4 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. 50%

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic / Chapter
1	Jan 13	Overview, Perusal activity, Ch 1
2	Jan 20	Recognizing objects, Ch 4
3	Jan 27	Paying Attention, Ch 5

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4	Feb 3	Reviewing, Part of Ch 2, Exam 1
5	Feb 10	Acquisition of memories and working memory, Ch 6
6	Feb 17	Types of memory, Ch 7
7	Feb 24	Concepts and generic knowledge, Ch 9
8	Mar 3	Reviewing, Exam 2
9	Mar 10	Spring break
10	Mar 17	Remembering complex events, Ch 8
11	Mar 24	Language, Ch 10
12	Mar 31	Visual Knowledge, Ch 11
13	Apr 7	Reviewing, Exam 3
14	Apr 14	Judgement & decision making, Ch 12
15	Apr 21	Problem solving, Ch 13
	Apr 28	Conscious and unconscious thought, Ch 15
	May 5	Final

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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](https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements)

LMS Browser Support:

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

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Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/ZoomAccount.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.

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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 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>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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>

Artificial Intelligence

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East Texas A&M University 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 Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
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](#)

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Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

Note: Our university is in the rebranding process. Some of the links could be changed during the semester. If you could not find the relevant information, contact the instructor.

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