

Course & Instructor Information

Psychology 364/04

Class Day: Monday & Wednesday

Classroom: CC 111

Class Time: 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

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Office Hours: By appointment

“Everything we do, every thought we've ever had, is produced by the human brain. But exactly how it operates remains one of the biggest unsolved mysteries, and it seems the more we probe its secrets, the more surprises we find.”

- Neil deGrasse Tyson

Concordia Calendar Description

PSYC 364 Cognition (3 credits) Prerequisite: PSYC 31 0, 31 5, previously or concurrently. This course introduces cognitive psychology. Theoretical perspectives and experimental findings that inform the current understanding of how humans acquire, represent, and use knowledge are presented and discussed. Topics include attention, memory, categorization, language, and thinking. This course allows students to gain familiarity with topics and concepts necessary to pursue advanced studies in cognition. NOTE: Students who have received credit for PSYC 352 may not take this course for credit.

Overview & Objectives

In many ways you will already be familiar with the ‘idea’ of Cognition as we are very familiar with the acquisition of knowledge, the formation of thoughts and memories and the production of language, for instance. What is less familiar is the ‘how’ of these concepts. For instance most people are very familiar with the process of reading but few have a sense of how we arrange lines and squiggles to form letters and words or how we infer meaning from these words based upon context and previous experience.

The content of this course will be divided into three related sections. We will begin by discussing the history of Cognitive Psychology and discuss perception and attention two key cognitive processes. We will then focus on how we remember things that we perceive and attend to and how this contributes to our general knowledge. Finally we will study language acquisition, comprehension and bilingualism. Course lectures are intended to actively engage, educate and inspire you to love cognition. I have designed these lectures as a complement to, and not a replacement for, the textbook I encourage you to come to class prepared, stay on top of the assigned readings and ask questions. If following this course you are ‘hooked’ I encourage you to pursue relevant higher-level psychology courses offered at Concordia (e.g., Infancy, Aging, and Childhood Development courses all focus on or involve cognitive psychology components).

Required Materials

Matlin, M. W. (2012). Cognition 8th Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: Hoboken, NJ.

-Plus additional material discussed in class

Recommended Materials

iClicker

Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined in the following manner:

Bonus (iClicker)	2%
Midterm I	25%
Midterm II	25%
Article Review	15%
Final Exam (Cumulative)	35%

Exams may consist of multiple-choice, fill-in the blanks, directed essay and short answer questions. For each exam you are responsible for knowing all material covered in class and all assigned readings. Midterm exams will not be cumulative and will test all material since the previous exam. **The final exam will focus largely on material covered since midterm II but will have cumulative material as well.**

The iClicker component of this course is intended to encourage students to regularly attend and take part in class. We will have approximately 6 questions per week. This is purely a participation mark and you will not be evaluated based upon correctness of your response. **You are expected to attend lectures and respond to iClicker questions. As this is a bonus mark based on class participation you will be unable to make up lost iClicker credits following any absence.**

Questions Responded to	Percent Bonus
90-100% of all questions	2.0%
80-89% of all questions	1.5%
70-79% of all questions	1.0%
60-69% of all questions	0.5%
<59% of all questions	0%

Article Review

There will be one article review (3 pages double spaced maximum; not including cover page or references) to be submitted at the beginning of class on March 24th. Reviews must be submitted in class. Reviews submitted after the end of class will be considered late 1 day and will be subject to a penalty of 3 marks (i.e., your maximal mark will be 12/15). For each additional late day 3 marks will be deducted. **This is a strict policy. Should you know of extenuating circumstances in advance please discuss with me or plan to submit your paper before the deadline.**

Conversion of Final Numerical Grade to Letter Grade

The following table will be used to convert your numerical grade to a letter grade. In the advent that your grade falls between two letter grades **rounding will be done at .8%**. For example 89.8% will be rounded to an A+ but 89.4% will not be.

A+ (90-100%)	B+ (77-79%)	C+ (67-69%)	D+ (57-59%)	F (0-49%)
A (85-89%)	B (73-76%)	C (63-66%)	D (53-56%)	
A- (80-84%)	B- (70-72%)	C- (60-62%)	D- (50-52%)	

Missed Exams and Late Assignments

In the case of a missed in class exam or a late article review submission you will receive a 0% (or reduced mark for the article review, see above). Exceptions will only be made for serious illness or on compassion grounds (**documentation is required**). Documentation must be taken seriously. **I will only accept official letters from a medical doctor (not a patient was seen note)**. Letters must state the date and that you were unable to attend class or submit work due to illness at the time of the exam or paper (you do not need to disclose the nature of personal illnesses). If you know in advance that you will be unable to write an exam it is in your best interest to discuss this with me otherwise you risk receiving a 0%. Missed exams may be conducted as oral exams.

Please review regulations surrounding missed final exams:

<http://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar/current/sec16/16.html>

Also please review the updated Concordia University Code of Conduct regarding academic offenses. **Perceived cheating during exams or plagiarism on papers will be treated seriously.**

<https://www.concordia.ca/content/shared/en/news/main/stories/2015/04/15/updates-to-academic-code-of-conduct.html>

Schedule of Required Readings

Part I: Introduction, Perception and attention	
Chapter 1: An Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
Chapter 2: Perceptual Processes I: Visual and Auditory Recognition	
Chapter 7: Mental Imagery and Cognitive maps	
Chapter 3: Perceptual Processes II: Attention and Consciousness	
MIDTERM I	Feb 3rd
Part II: Memory and general knowledge	
Chapter 4: Working Memory	
Chapter 5: Long-term Memory	
Chapter 8: General Knowledge	
Chapter 11: Problem Solving and Creativity	
MIDTERM II	March 16th
Part III: Language and comprehension	
Chapter 9: Language I: Introduction to Language and Language Comprehension	
Chapter 10: Language II: Language Production and Bilingualism	
Chapter 12: Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making	
Chapter 13: Cognitive Development Throughout the Lifespan	
Time Permitting	
Chapter 6: Memory Strategies (p. 169-187)	
Article Review	Due: March 21st
FINAL	During Exam Period: April 15th – May 1st

Please note we will be using the scheduled make-up session on April 14th.

“In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the context and/or evaluation scheme in the course is subject to change”