

Cognitive Psychology  
Psychology 4100

**Syllabus**  
**Spring 2008**

**Lecture**

**Location:** Rm. 214; SLC  
**Time:** 9:05–9:55; MWF  
**Instructor:** Thad Meeks

**Office:** Psychology Bldg., Rm. 509-C  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Email:** [jtm3@uga.edu](mailto:jtm3@uga.edu)

**Lab #1 (Call #66-158)**

**Lab Location #1:** Room 205S; PBODY  
**Lab Time #1:** 9:30–10:45; Tues  
**Lab Instructor #1:** Diana Young

**Lab #2 (Call #99-980)**

**Lab Location #2:** Room 102; PSYC  
**Lab Time #2:** 9:30–10:45; Thurs  
**Lab Instructor #2:** Gene Brewer

**Required Course Materials:**

1. Stephen K. Reed, *Cognition*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Thompson/Wadsworth, 2007.
2. Coglab Software. **DO NOT BUY A USED COPY.**

**Overview.** This course is a survey of cognitive psychology. You should have several goals in taking this course, and it will be my responsibility as the instructor to help you achieve them. First, you should learn the important findings in contemporary cognition and the conceptual frameworks used to think about them. Second, you should learn how those findings and knowledge are acquired; that is, how cognitive research is conducted. Third, you should begin to think more critically about what you read and hear with the specific aim of proposing new research in the various subdisciplines of cognitive psychology. Lastly, you should be able to take the principle learned in this class and apply them to what you experience on a daily basis.

To these ends, you will participate in several modes of learning: read a textbook, read some journal articles, write APA-style assignments, listen to lectures, participate in class discussions, and participate in laboratory exercises; I have intentionally attempted to keep the amount of readings to a minimum for this course. For those pursuing careers as cognitive psychologists, you will receive more in-depth information in specialized classes and seminars (e.g., perception, neuropsychology, human learning and memory). There will be several informal discussions throughout the semester about the topics we cover. I hope to provide you with the foundational principles in cognitive psychology so that you may put the more contemporary findings in perspective.

**Formal requirements and grading.** There will be three closed-book, closed-note exams. Each exam will be worth 25% of your total grade (250 points each). The last exam will be taken during finals and will not be cumulative. These exams will consist of some weighting of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short essay questions (announced in class). The exams will cover

material presented in lectures and in the book. Note that some material will come from both book and lecture, but some will come from lecture only and some will come from book only. I will announce this distribution in class. I generally try to have a review before each test and I will announce the date and time of these in class. Lab will constitute 20% (200 points) of your grade. In lab, you will get a chance to read articles, write APA style reviews, as well as participate in experiments relevant to class discussion. Your TA will discuss the lab in more detail. Finally, participation will count 5% (50 points) of your total grade. This component is discussed in more detail in the attendance section of the syllabus.

The breakdown of grading is as follows:

Exam 1	250 points	25%
Exam 2	250 points	25%
Exam 3	250 points	25%
Lab	200 points	20%
Participation	50 points	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

The official letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

TOTAL: 1000 points (100%)

Note: a grade of C or better (73% or higher) is required to earn credit as a PSYC major.

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage Equivalent</b>	<b>Points Equivalent</b>
A	93%-100%	926-1000
A-	90%-92%	896-925
B+	87%-89%	866-895
B	83%-86%	826-865
B-	80%-82%	796-825
C+	77%-79%	766-795
<b>C</b>	<b>73%-76%</b>	<b>726-765</b>
C-	70%-72%	696-725
D+	67%-69%	666-695
D	63%-66%	626-665
D-	60%-62%	596-625

I will usually round up, for example from 79.5% to 80%, but do not count on it (sometimes the tests may have been extra easy, for example—then the cutoffs will be firm). As a general principle, I will never work harder for your grade than you do. Students who have poor attendance should not expect me to “make up” points for them. Students who have done all that is in their power to do their best can be assured that will be carefully considered in making any borderline decision. I try to apply consistent standards and treat students fairly, as well as fulfill my responsibilities to UGA in making difficult decisions about grades.

Please note that a strict policy will be adopted regarding extensions, late papers, missed exams, etc.: all will be penalized unless a clear and pressing case can be made for medical reasons. Moreover, you may not submit work for this course that has been submitted, or is to be submitted, for credit in another course (some exceptions to this rule exist and you should consult the instructor(s) if you have any doubt).

**Grading problems:** If you feel there has been an error in working out your grade please let me know as soon as possible. Work out your grade as described above and specify the reason for your concern when contacting me. I want you to get every point you have earned. If you are unhappy with your final grade but agree that it has been worked out correctly as described above, please don't ask for a better grade, or extra opportunities to make a better grade, as a "favor" at the end of the semester. The answer to such unfair requests must always be "no".

**Attendance:** I strongly recommend coming to class. There will often be material presented in class that is not presented equivalently in the book. I will also go into more detail than is presented in the notes. I will post notes on WebCT but I suggest you do not rely on those because they are only meant to serve as an outline of what we have discussed in class. I will go into much more detail on the notes in class.

Also, there will be in-class assignments given at random times during the semester to account for your participation grade. You must be present and satisfactorily complete each assignment to receive credit. A set number of assignments will be expected to be completed to earn the full 50 points. This amount will be determined by the average attendance for class. For every assignment under this amount that you miss or do not satisfactorily complete, you will lose points out of the 50 possible. If you exceed the expected amount, you will receive extra credit points in the same amount. I will also use the attendance information in borderline decisions about grades. Absences MUST be accompanied by a documented excuse or must be explained well in advance to the professor.

**Academic Honesty:** The policies of academic honesty will be strictly followed in this class. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and abide by UGA's policy for academic honesty ([www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm)). Your work must be your own and if I suspect otherwise, I will take the appropriate actions.

**Disability Services:** If you have a learning disability and/or need special accommodations, please see the Office of Disability Services or phone them at 542-8719 to obtain the necessary paperwork. The appropriate paperwork must be shown to the course instructor at the onset of the semester so that accommodations can be made accordingly (e.g. note-taker, test-taking, etc.)

**Office Hours:** I am very flexible about the time I can meet. If you need to come to my office, speak with me in class or e-mail me (I check this frequently) and we can set up a time to meet.

**The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructors may be necessary.**

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Week of</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter In Book</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>
1	Jan 7th	Introduction to Class/History and Conceptualizations	Ch. 1	Drop/Add ends Jan 10th
2	Jan 14th	History and Conceptualizations/Attention	Ch.1/Ch. 3	
3	Jan 21st	Perception	Ch.2	Monday, Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> (M.L.K. day)
4	Jan 28th	Perception/Representations (Schemata)	Ch.2/Ch.9	
5	Feb 4th	Representations (Visouspatial and Imagery)/ Representations(Categories)	Ch. 7/Ch. 8	
6	Feb 11th	Representations(Categories)	Ch. 8	<b>Exam #1 Feb 15th</b>
7	Feb 18th	Memory: (STM-WM)/ Memory (LTM)	Ch. 4/Ch. 5	
8	Feb 25th	Memory (LTM)/Memory Codes	Ch. 5/Ch. 6	
9	Mar 3rd	Memory Codes/ Memory: Picture memory, distortions, mnemonics, etc	Ch. 6/No Chapter	Withdrawal Deadline is Mar 4th
10	Mar 10th	<b>NO CLASS SPRING BREAK</b>		
11	Mar 17th	Memory: Picture memory, distortions, mnemonics, etc / Psycholinguistics I	No Chapter/Ch. 10	
12	Mar 24th	Psycholinguistics I/ Psycholinguistics II	Ch. 10/Ch. 11	
13	Mar 31st	Problem Solving	Ch. 12	<b>Exam #2 March 31st</b>
14	Apr 7th	Problem Solving/ Reasoning	Ch. 12/Ch. 13	
15	Apr 14th	Judgment and Decision Making/Neuropsychology	Ch. 14/No Chapter	
16	Apr 21st	Neuropsychology/Concluding Topics	No Chapter/No Chapter	
17	April 28th	Concluding Topics	No Chapter	April 28 <sup>th</sup> – last day of classes
18	May 5th	Final Exam on Monday, May 5 <sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 11.		<b>Exam #3 (May 5th)</b>