



Cognitive Psychology PSYCO 258 Section X01 Fall Term 2020

Instructor: Professor Michael R.W. Dawson
Office: BSB P-203 (Biological Computation Project Lab)
E-mail: mdawson@ualberta.ca
Phone: 780-492-5175
Web Page: This class is on eClass
Office Hours: One-to-one meetings can be arranged by email

Teaching Assistant(s): Arturo Perez aiperez@ualberta.ca

Lecture Room & Time: Discussion Sessions Thursdays 6:30 – 8:00 pm Online

Course Description: A survey of findings of theoretical issues in the study of cognition, such as perception, attention, knowledge representation, memory, learning, language, reasoning, and problem solving. [Faculty of Science]

Course Prerequisites: Prerequisites: PSYCO 104 or SCI 100, and STAT 141 or 151 or SCI 151. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they have the appropriate prerequisite(s) for the course.

Technology Requirements/Recommendations for Remote Learning:

For an optimal online learning experience, please review the University guidelines for [Technology for Remote Learning](#). If a student has any questions or concerns about these requirements/recommendations, it is highly recommended that they contact the instructor at the beginning of term.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes: This course introduces students to the theoretical foundations of cognitive psychology, and to how cognitive psychology's methods are determined by these foundations. This course uses lectures, readings and a series of assignments to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- A basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of cognitive psychology
- A basic understanding of cognitive psychology's basic methods and results
- A basic understanding of the leading figures in cognitive psychology throughout its history
- The ability to understand and take part in debates about cognitive psychology's foundations

Required Textbook: Dawson, M.R.W. (Under review) *What is cognitive psychology?* Athabasca University Press, under editorial review. This book will be available via eClass.

Recommended or Optional Learning Resources: Supplementary readings will be used throughout the term and made available via the course's eClass support.

Important Dates: See the current Calendar for the [Academic Schedule, Dates, and Deadlines](#), which include the Registration Add/Drop deadline and Withdrawal date.

Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings:

Topic	Reading	Date	Content
Week 1:	Dawson Introduction	Sep 3	Introducing Cognitive Psychology
Week 2:	Dawson Chapter 1	10	What Is Information Processing
Week 3:	Finish Chapter 1	17	Problem Solving As Search
Week 4:	Dawson Chapter 2	24	Inferring Cognitive Processes
Week 5:	Finish Chapter 2	Oct 1	Organization and Memory
Week 6:	Dawson Chapter 3	8	Functional Analysis
Week 7:	Finish Chapter 3	15	The Cognitive Revolution
Week 8:	Dawson Chapter 4	22	Cognitive Architectures
Week 9:	Finish Chapter 4	29	Cognitive Penetrability
Week 10:	Dawson Chapter 5	Nov 5	Cognitive Debates I
Week 11:	Finish Chapter 5	19	Cognitive Debates II
Week 12:	TBA	26	Are PDP Networks Subsymbolic?
Week 13:	TBA	Dec 3	What Is Cognitive Psychology?

Representative Evaluative Material: See the course eClass for information.

Grade Evaluation: Assignments in this course will not be graded in the typical 'point' fashion. Instead, you will complete several assignments, and your final grade will depend upon how many assignments you complete. Each assignment is worth a certain number of points (typically 20). *It is marked pass/fail.* To receive the assignment's points, you have to pass it by answering every question correctly. If you fail the assignment by making one or more mistakes, then you will have a chance to correct its errors and resubmit it. The table below shows how your letter grade is mapped onto the number of assignments that you successfully complete.

Letter Grade For Course	Final Mark (In Percent) To Obtain That Letter Grade	Total Assignment Points Required For Letter Grade	Example Of Achievements For Letter Grade
A+	89 – 100	325	Complete Assignments 1 - 17
A	85 – 88.9	305	Complete Assignments 1 - 16
A-	80 – 84.9	285	Complete Assignments 1 - 15
B+	77 – 79.9	265	Complete Assignments 1 - 14
B	71 – 76.9	245	Complete Assignments 1 - 13
B-	66 – 70.9	225	Complete Assignments 1 - 12
C+	61 – 65.9	205	Complete Assignments 1 - 11
C	57 – 60.9	185	Complete Assignments 1 - 10
C-	52 – 56.9	165	Complete Assignments 1 - 9
D+	50 – 51.9	145	Complete Assignments 1 - 8
D	48 – 49.9	125	Complete Assignments 1 - 7
F	0 – 47.9	0 - 105	Complete Assignments 1 - 6 or fewer

The above table contains an approximate guideline for the course, however the instructor reserves the right to adjust this table to correspond to University-suggested ranges and assign appropriate grades based on relative performance. Grades are unofficial until approved by the Department and/or Faculty offering the course.

Specifications Grading: My teaching approach stems from 17th century philosopher Giambattista Vico's belief that "one is certain only of what one builds." To me, this means that students can best learn concepts by doing hands on activities. For this course, this means that you will learn by completing a number of assignments during the term. Your grade will depend upon how many assignments that you complete. You will not write any exams in this course.

There are 17 different assignments available for this course. Each assignment will be distributed via eClass, and different assignments focus on different learning objectives. Several assignments depend upon your ability to understand the concepts used in the lectures and the texts (Assignments 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11). Several assignments are interactive activities to develop your understanding of key concepts and key researchers in cognitive psychology (Assignments 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 14). The remaining assignments give you an opportunity to develop your writing skills with short writing activities (Assignments 15, 16, and 17).

Ideally, you will work through the assignments in order. *You will only receive a grade for an assignment when all your answers for it are correct.* You will receive feedback that identifies any errors, so that you can correct these errors and resubmit the assignment for regrading. You cannot submit the next assignment until the current assignment has been completed. So, once you complete Assignment 1 you can submit Assignment 2; once you complete Assignment 2 you can submit Assignment 3; and so on.

You will work through the assignments at your own pace, but after a period of time (typically a couple of weeks) you will not be able to submit an assignment because its 'Must Be Completed By' date has passed. If this happens, you will receive 0 points for the assignment, but you can proceed to submit the next assignment. The 'Must Be Completed By' date for each assignment is given below.

These two requirements – being able to submit an assignment only after the previous one is completed, and the 'Must Be Completed By' date – are used to ensure that you work on the assignments at a moderate pace throughout the term. Continuous work throughout the term will lead to better learning than cramming all your assignment work into a short period. Also, the 'Must Be Completed By' dates mean that you cannot cram all of your work in this course into its final days.

Rules for Assignments:

- Assignments are marked Pass/Fail
- Explicit instructions for performing an assignment are provided
- The requirements for passing an assignment are clearly indicated
- To receive the points for an assignment, you must pass it. Otherwise, you receive 0 points
- You will receive prompt feedback about your assignment
 - If all answers are correct, you will receive full points and can proceed to the next assignment
 - Errors will be indicated in the feedback, and you can correct them and resubmit it
 - Zero points are awarded for an assignment that has errors
 - Partial points for an assignment *are not given!*
- You can submit the assignment multiple times to correct errors identified in the feedback
- You *cannot submit* an assignment or its corrections *after its 'Must Be Completed By' date* in the table below
- You cannot submit the next assignment until:
 - The current assignment has been passed, or,
 - The 'Must Be Completed By' date for the current assignment has expired

The assignments are distributed via eClass, and you will use eClass to submit them for grading. The assignment that you turn in will be a Microsoft Word document. No other forms of submission will be accepted or graded!

Assignments For PSYCO 258 'Cognitive Psychology'			
Assignment	Topic	Value	Must Be Completed by
Assignment #1	Terms from Textbook Introduction	5 points	Sep 17
Assignment #2	Top 10 Articles	20 points	Sep 17
Assignment #3	Terms from Textbook Chapter 1	20 points	Sep 24
Assignment #4	Exploring Turing Machines	20 points	Oct 1
Assignment #5	Terms from Textbook Chapter 2	20 points	Oct 8
Assignment #6	Generate Mnemonics	20 points	Oct 15
Assignment #7	Terms from Textbook Chapter 3	20 points	Oct 15
Assignment #8	Famous Images	20 points	Oct 29
Assignment #9	Terms from Textbook Chapter 4	20 points	Oct 29
Assignment #10	Match Researcher To Theory	20 points	Nov 5
Assignment #11	Terms from Textbook Chapter 5	20 points	Nov 5
Assignment #12	Famous Names in Cognitive Psychology	20 points	Nov 19
Assignment #13	People Crossword	20 points	Nov 26
Assignment #14	Famous Images 2	20 points	Nov 26
Assignment #15	Famous Paper #1 Summary	20 points	Dec 3
Assignment #16	Famous Paper #2 Summary	20 points	Dec 3
Assignment #17	Definitions With Importance	20 points	Dec 3
Total Points Available:		340 points	

Format of Exams: As noted above, evaluation in this course requires students to work through a series of assignments at their own pace, keeping in mind that each assignment must be completed by a particular date. One could consider this evaluation process as involving three open book, take-home exams that are conducted over an extended period of time. The first is comprised of Assignments 1 through 5, begins in Week 1 of the course, and ends Week 6. The second is comprised of Assignments 6 through 11, begins in Week 6 of the course, and ends Week 10. The third is comprised of Assignments 12 through 17, begins in week 10 of the course, and ends on the final day of the course.

Missed Assignments:

For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes to request accommodation for the term (including the final exam, where relevant). Instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the student request.

A student who cannot complete a term assignment due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply for extension of time to complete an assignment.

In all cases, instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence, at their discretion.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Guidelines for Respectful Online Engagement: Students from many different backgrounds participate in courses at the University of Alberta. Sexist, racist, homophobic comments and other inflammatory remarks are not conducive to learning in our courses, and absolutely are not permitted. All participants are governed by the [Code of Student Behaviour](#). Be mindful when discussions involve controversial topics or issues, and consider the possibility that members of our community have themselves experienced some of these issues and/or very different realities because of these issues. Participate in a respectful and considered manner.

If you are witness to or the target of abusive or offensive behaviour in any course, please inform your instructor immediately. You may also contact the Psychology Undergraduate/Graduate Advisor, Associate Chair of Undergraduate/Graduate, or Chair.

Academic Integrity: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for clarification on the various offences. If you have any questions, ask your instructor. All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Any offence will be reported to the Associate Dean of the Faculty, who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#). Sanctions range from a grade of zero for an exam or paper in question, with no opportunity to replace the grade or redistribute the weights, to a disciplinary failing grade with a period of suspension or expulsion from the University of Alberta.

Recording and/or Distribution of Course Materials: Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

STUDENT RESOURCES:

COVID-19 Updates: Updates pertaining to university-related activities can be found on the [COVID-19 Information website](#).

Student Services and Resources: General information about various services, including academic, financial, health, safety, and career development, can be found on the website for [Current Students](#).

Accessibility Resources (AR) (1 – 80 SUB): The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. AR promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage. Eligible students have both rights and responsibilities with regard to accessibility-related accommodations. Consequently, scheduling exam accommodations in accordance with AR deadlines and procedures is essential. Please note adherence to procedures and deadlines is required for U of A to provide accommodations.

Academic Success Centre (1-80 SUB): [The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students strengthen their academic skills and achieve their academic goals. Individual advising, appointments, and group workshops are available year round in the areas of Accessibility, Communication, Learning, and Writing Resources. Modest fees apply for some services.

The Centre for Writers (1-42 Assiniboia Hall): The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

First Peoples' House: [The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

Office of the Student Ombuds: The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, and Faculty of Science are committed to ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. This includes virtual environments and platforms.

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

Disclaimer: Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and/or posted on the course website (e.g., eClass). The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

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