

PSYC309A Cognitive Processes

Term 2 (Jan 02 to Apr 04, 2019), Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30-5pm
West Mall Swing Space, Room 122

Team

Instructor

Daniela Palombo, PhD

Office

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Office Hours

Thursday 2-3pm

Email

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Teaching Assistant

Max Jativa, Graduate Student

Office

CIRS 4342

Office Hours

Tuesday 1-2pm

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About

In this course, you will take a closer look at psychological science. Here, we focus on cognition, namely, the scientific study of the mind. Cognition includes sensation and perception, consciousness, language, memory, learning and thinking. We will cover these topics by examining behavioural and neural phenomena. We will also discuss alterations in cognitive processes in clinical populations.

Format

Lectures will be based on textbook content and beyond. The latter includes additional relevant content (e.g., hot topics in the field), other reading material (e.g., journal articles), or occasional video clips. Hence students should attend lectures to access all of the course content.

Materials

Required Textbook

Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience
5th Edition (E. Bruce Goldstein); Electronic, binder ready, or hard copy is fine.

Required Reading

Race et al. (2011). Medial Temporal Lobe Damage Causes Deficits in Episodic Memory and Episodic Future Thinking Not Attributable to Deficits in Narrative Construction. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 31(28): 10262–10269.

Communication

Website

Lecture slides, assignments, and grades are available on UBC Canvas.

Email

The best way to get in touch with Daniela or Max is through our UBC e-mails (include “PSY309A” in the subject line). **Please check for the information in the syllabus first.**

Assessment

Midterm (30%) and Final Exam (40%)

The midterm/final exam is based on material from the textbook, lectures, supplementary readings, and videos. The format is multiple-choice, shorter and longer questions and diagrams.
The final exam is cumulative with slightly more emphasis on material covered post midterm (40% pre-midterm, 60% post-midterm material).

Short Paper (30%)

The short paper involves a 1200-word essay, critiquing an article assigned to you (see assignment outline when available).

Extra Credit (3%)

One way to learn more about psychology is to be a participant in ongoing research projects. You may earn up to 3 credits toward your course grade by participating in studies that are posted on <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com>. Please register in this online system **by end of the first month of class**. You can also earn your first half hour of credit by completing pretesting survey that will make you eligible for a wider variety of studies. Please note that in a given term, you can earn no more than one hour of credit for **online studies** (not including the pretesting). As an alternative to participating in studies, you

may choose to complete library writing projects, in which you read and summarize a research article; each article summary counts as one hour of research participation. More information about this option can be found at: <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy>. All of your credits for study participation or the library option will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling that may have been applied.

Access and Diversity

UBC is committed to equal opportunity for all of its students including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. If you have a disability that affects your learning or performance in class, including exam writing, please visit: <http://students.ubc.ca/about/access>.

Policies

Attendance and Class Etiquette

Although we do not take attendance in this class, you are strongly encouraged to attend every lecture to achieve the highest grade possible. Class participation is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. While you are in class, you are permitted to use your laptop or iPad for course-related activities (e.g., taking notes). We discourage you from using your laptop (or other devices) for non-course activities as this may be a distraction to your classmates. If you decide to do so, however, please try to sit at the back of the room.

Grading

In order to avoid grade inflation and maintain equity across course sections, all psychology courses must comply with departmental grade norms: The average grade in a 300- and 400-level Psychology course is 70 for an exceptionally strong class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class. Scaling (either up or down) may be required to comply with these norms.

Disputing a Grade

Any complaint about the midterm or paper should be made in writing to Max and myself and should detail the point of contention. All complaints should be made within **1 week** of receiving your grade.

Late Assignment

There is a 10% penalty per day for lateness and the paper will not be accepted if it is more than one week late. (e.g., if it is due on a Tuesday, the last day it will be accepted is the following Tuesday).

Missing the Midterm/Exam

For scheduled UBC-sanctioned **sport travel or a religious obligation** that conflicts with the midterm/exam, please contact us within the first 2 weeks of classes to ensure alternative arrangements are made. If a **medical** issue arises, and you must miss the midterm/exam, you must contact me before the midterm/exam and provide medical documentation within 1 week of the midterm/exam. You are

responsible for scheduling a makeup exam within 1 week of the original exam date (unless your documentation suggests a longer period is required). If you miss the midterm/exam **without a legitimate excuse**, you will receive a mark of zero.

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn – a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).

Resources

- **UBC Wellness Centre** (604-822-8450): students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/wellness-centre
Speak with other students about how to manage stress, healthy sleep and eating, safe sex, etc.
- **BC Crisis Center** (604-872-3311): crisiscentre.bc.ca
Non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that provides 24/7 emotional support for those in crisis in BC.
- **Counselling Services** (604-822-3811): students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/counselling-services
Offers resources to help you maintain mental health while in school.

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading(s)
1	-	-	-
	Jan 3	Intro to Cognitive Science	Chapter 1
2	Jan 8	Cognitive Neuroscience 1 (Meet your TA, Max Jativa)	Chapter 2
	Jan 10	Cognitive Neuroscience 2	
3	Jan 15	Perception 1	Chapter 3
	Jan 17	Perception 2	
4	Jan 22	Attention 1	Chapter 4
	Jan 24	Attention 2 (Max Jativa)	
5	Jan 29	Short-term Memory 1	Chapter 5
	Jan 31	Short-term Memory 2	
6	Feb 5	Long-term Memory 1	Chapter 6
	Feb 7	Long-term Memory 2	
7	Feb 12	Long-term Memory 3	Chapter 7
	Feb 14	Long-term Memory 4	
8	Feb 19	Reading Week	Chapter 8
	Feb 21	Reading Week	
9	Feb 26	Midterm	Article 1
	Feb 28	Future Imagining	
10	Mar 5	Conceptual Knowledge 1	Chapter 9
	Mar 7	Conceptual Knowledge 2	
11	Mar 12	Imagery 1	Chapter 10
	Mar 14	Imagery 2; Paper Due	
12	Mar 19	Language 1	Chapter 11
	Mar 21	Language 2	
13	Mar 26	No Class	Chapter 12
	Mar 28	Problem Solving	
14	Apr 3	Decision Making 1	Chapter 13
	Apr 4	Decision Making 2	