

PSYCHOLOGY 217, SECTION 921
Thinking Clearly About Psychology
May – June 2008

Course Information

Meeting Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Meeting Time: 5:00 – 7:30pm
Location: Swing, Room 122
Website: <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~psyc217/>

Instructor

Name: Carrie Cuttler
Office: Kenny Building, Room 3202
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: cuttler@psych.ubc.ca

Teaching Assistant

Name: Ryan McLaughlin
Office: Kenny Building, Room 3512
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: rjmclgh@mta.ubc.ca

Textbooks

How to Think Straight About Psychology (8th Edition) Keith E. Stanovich
Methods in Behavioral Research (9th Edition) Paul C. Cozby

Lab Book

CogLab Online with Access Code (Version 2.0) Greg Francis & Ian Neath

Lectures and Assigned Readings

Attendance at lectures is essential for students who wish to do well in the course. Examinations will cover both lecture material and assigned readings. You are responsible for all assigned readings and all lecture material.

Grades

Your final grade in this course will be weighted in the following manner:

Lab Assignments	5%
Midterm:	40%
Final Exam:	55%

Lab Assignments

There will be 9 lab assignments which you will be expected to complete on your own time. One of the assignments will require you to complete the TCPS Ethics tutorial. The tutorial takes approximately two hours to complete. You will receive a certificate of completion which you must print and turn into the instructor by the due date. You will receive 1% if you submit your certificate on or before the due

date. See list of (due) dates at the end of the syllabus. Late submissions will not be accepted. The link to the tutorial is <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/tutorial/?action=start>

The remaining 8 lab assignments will require you to complete specific CogLab experiments by specific dates. Each of the CogLab assignments requires 10-30 minutes to complete. You will receive 0.5% for each assignment completed on time (4% in total). You will not receive any points for lab assignments completed after the due date. See the list of (due) dates at the end of the syllabus.

Examinations

There will be two exams: a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm will be written in class on **Thursday May 22nd**. The final exam will be written on June 13th or 14th as designated by the Registrar. You must be available to write your final exam at any scheduled time during the official exam period. If you have 3 or more exams scheduled within a 24 hour period you may request to write the second exam on a different day. However, you must give the instructor of the second exam one months notice.

The midterm exam will be 80 minutes in duration. It will cover all lecture material covered before May 22nd, chapters 1-4 of the Cozby textbook and chapters 1-6 of the Stanovich textbook (10 chapters in total). The exam will contain 80 multiple-choice questions.

The final exam will be approximately 120 minutes in duration. The majority of the questions on the final exam will focus on material covered after the midterm examination, however some questions will require you to use information that you learned before the midterm. The primary focus of the final exam will be on lecture material presented after the midterm, chapters 5-14 of the Cozby textbook and chapters 7-12 of the Stanovich textbook. The exam will contain 100 multiple-choice questions, 25 true/false questions and 25 fill-in-the-blank questions.

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, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 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. Do **not** use Google/Yahoo/MSN Search/etc. to find articles for assignments in this course. **Do** use any of the indexes and databases listed under Indexes and Databases, Subject Resources, OneSearch or Metasearch on the Library's website at <http://www.library.ubc.ca>. (Not sure which index to use? Click HELP on the library homepage at www.library.ubc.ca or try Subject Resources.)

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>).

Psychology Department's Policy on Grade Distributions and Scaling

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13. The corresponding figures for 100- and 200-level Psychology courses are 67, 65, and 63, with a standard deviation of 14. **Scaling** may be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department.

Research Participation Bonus Marks

Students have the opportunity to earn up to two bonus marks (2%) by participating in a Psychology Subject Pool study. You can locate and sign up for studies by going to <https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. If you don't already have a user account you will first need to request an HSP (human subject pool) user account on this webpage. Once you have an account and have logged into it, you will be able to browse through all of the experiments that you can participate in, sign up for experiments and confirm your accumulated bonus marks. I strongly urge all students to confirm their accumulated bonus marks *before* the last week of class. Further instruction on how to use the HSP online system can be found at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy> in the document entitled "Subject Pool Information for Participants."

As an alternative to participation in a Psychology Subject Pool study, you may obtain extra credits by completing a library writing project. If you choose this option you will be required to read and summarize (in written form) a recent peer reviewed (i.e., it cannot be a news item, a notice or a letter to the editor, for example) research article (i.e., not a review article) in a journal published by the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, the Canadian Psychological Association or the Psychonomic Society. The research article must have been published recently – within the last 12 months, and your summary should be about 500 words in length. You will receive 1 extra credit for each article summary, up to a maximum of 2 credits.

If you choose to make use of the library option, you must submit your completed article summaries, together with copies of the summarized articles to, Dr. Liz Dunn at least 10 days before the end of class (i.e., before November 20th).

Reporting of Grades

Once the midterm exam has been marked, the grades will be posted with student numbers (no names) on the course website.

Requests for the adjustment of a grade on the midterm exam must be made within 2 weeks of the posting of the grades. Most requests for adjustment of midterm grades can be settled directly with your teaching assistant during his office hour. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved in this fashion, the instructor will render a final decision. Please note that if you request that a question be re-graded, it will be re-graded and your mark may go up, down or stay the same.

Missed Examinations

If you miss an exam due to illness, contact the instructor, Carrie Cuttler, and the teaching assistant, Ryan McLaughlin, **either before the exam or on the day of the exam**. Failure to immediately notify us that you missed the exam may result in a grade of 0 with no opportunity to write a make up. Notify Carrie Cuttler and Ryan McLaughlin again when you are well and are ready to write the make up and they will schedule the make up exam for you. You must have a note from your doctor confirming that you were sick for the period of time extending from the day of the exam to the day that you notify us that you are well and ready to write the exam. You will not be permitted to write the exam without this note, no exceptions.

If you miss an exam for a reason other than illness a decision about how to proceed will be made on a case by case basis. However, in most cases missing an exam will result in a grade of 0 on the exam and no opportunity to write a make-up exam.

Dates for Lectures, Readings and Lab Assignments

You will be required to read both textbooks in their entirety. The following is a list of the dates for lectures, readings and lab assignments. Note that you will receive 0 for lab assignments completed after the due date listed below.

Dates	Lectures	How to Think Straight About Psychology K. E. Stanovich	Methods in Behavioral Research P. C. Cozby	Lab Assignment Due Dates
May 6 th	Lectures 1 & 2	Preface & Chapters 1 & 2	Chapter 1	None
May 8 th	Lectures 2, 3 & 4	Chapter 2, 3 & 4	Chapter 2	Wason Selection Task & Von Restorff Effect Experiments
May 13 th	Lecture 5	None	Chapter 3	TCPS Ethics Tutorial Certificates
May 15 th	Lectures 5 & 6	Chapter 5	Chapter 4 pgs. 66-77	Levels of Processing Experiment
May 20 th	Lectures 7 & 8	Chapter 6	Chapters 4 & 5	False Memory Experiment
May 22 nd Exam	Lectures 8 & 9	None	Chapters 5 & 6	None
May 27 th	Lectures 9 & 10	None	Chapters 6 & 7	Change Detection Experiment
May 29 th	Lectures 10, 11 & 12	None	Chapters 7, 8 & 9	Stroop Effect Experiment
June 3 rd	Lectures 12, 13 & 14	Chapter 9	Chapters 9, 10 & 11	Encoding Specificity Experiment
June 5 th	Lectures 14 & 15	None	Chapters 11 & 12	None
June 10 th	Lectures 16 & 17	Chapters 10 & 11	Chapter 13	Typical Reasoning Experiment
June 12 th	Lectures 17, 18 & 19	Chapters 7, 8 & 12	Chapters 13 & 14	None