



Cognitive Processes

PRE-REQS

Pre-reqs: Either (a) [PSYC 100](#) or (b) two of [PSYC 101](#), [PSYC 102](#), [PSYC 205](#), [PSYC 207](#), [PSYC 208](#), [PSYC 216](#), [PSYC 217](#), [PSYC 277](#). (Strongly recommended: [PSYC 101](#) and either [PSYC 216](#) or one of [PSYC 217](#) or [277](#).)

TEAM

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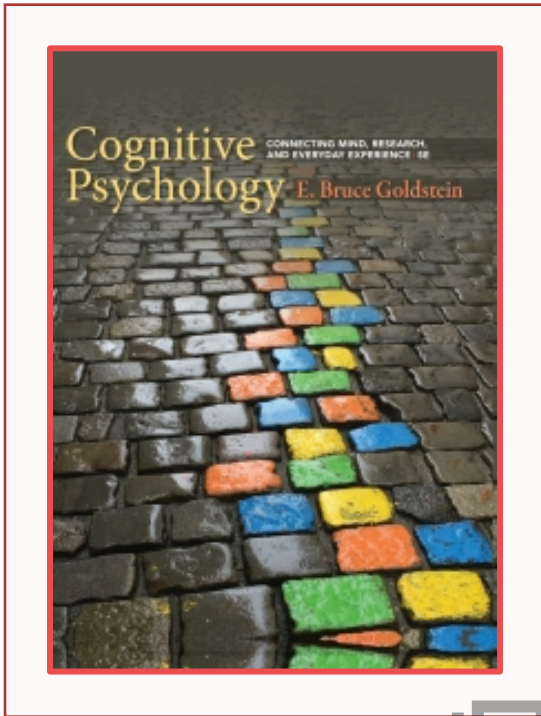
See canvas home page for office hours

ABOUT

In this course, you will take a closer look at psychological science. Here we focus on cognition, where we explore the scientific study of the mind. Cognition includes attention, perception, 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 and neurological contexts. Dr. Palombo, your instructor teaches two sections of this course this term: 002 and 003. Please make note of your section.

FORMAT

As we continue to learn in a global pandemic, we will work together to make the most out of this class. This course includes lecture, podcasts, and zoom. Lecture video and lecture slides are provided on Canvas weekly. Lectures will be based on textbook content and beyond. The latter includes relevant content (e.g., hot topics in the field), discussion of other reading material or occasional video clips. **In this class, lectures are asynchronous but quizzes and a special discussion (i.e., of assignments) are held during regular class time.** Timing accommodations are made for students residing in other time zones. *Accommodations will not be made for students taking other classes at the same time as PSYC309A.*



LEARNING MATERIALS

Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience (5th edition)

Bruce Goldstein

E-version required (“mindtap”); hard copy optional.

See the link for buying instructions (with bookstore link).

Copy and paste into your browser (**do not click the link**).

https://www.cengage.com/coursepages/UBC_PSYC309

[A](#)

Then go to:

For 002:

URL: <https://login.nelsonbrain.com/course/MTPNWB0QRKJ9>

For 003:

URL: <https://login.nelsonbrain.com/course/MTPN-QXNQ-J6J7>

AFTER TAKING THIS CLASS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

How and why do we think, feel, remember, decide?

What happens in our brain during cognition?

How is cognition affected in disease and brain injury?

How does cognition relate to mental health?

How can I apply the science of cognition to everyday life?

How can I recognize and communicate scientific research?

ASSESSMENT

Quizzes 1-4 (no final exam) (48%; each worth 12%)

The quizzes are based on material from the textbook, lectures, supplementary readings, and videos. The format of each quiz will be discussed in advance of each quiz. Quizzes take place during class time. **If you have an accommodation that gives you extra time to write the quiz, please email your accommodation letter to me.**

Term Paper (40%)

The short paper involves an essay critiquing an article assigned to you (see assignment outline).

Participation Assignment (12%)

This assignment involves course engagement, through discussion board participation (see assignment outline).

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 a pretesting survey that will make you eligible for a wider variety of studies. 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: <https://psych.cms.arts.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/05/Info-for-Participants-2020-spring.pdf>. 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.

Please pay careful attention to your course section when completing your HSP credits.

COMMUNICATION

Website

All materials for this course are available on Canvas.

Email

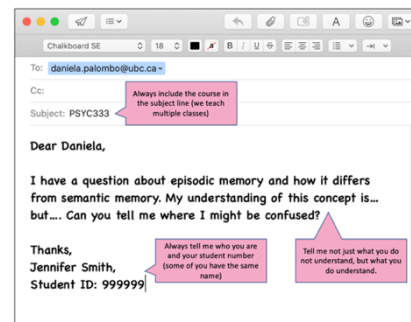
The best way to get in touch with us is through our UBC e-mails, with an expected response within 48 h on weekdays. (Please check for the information in the syllabus first.) I understand that some students do not feel comfortable emailing professors. They do not know what to say, or how to say it. Try something like this (right panel). Remember, we want to hear from you and we are here to help! **Email your professor for content questions and one of your TAs for assessment questions (quizzes, assignments, etc.).**

Please include the course code and section in the email, along with your name and student number.

Zoom Office

See page 1 for weekly office hours. To schedule an appointment with one of us outside of this time (if you are in a different time zone), send us an email.

Course Announcements



We will send out announcements through Canvas, which will arrive to you through email. **Please check your spam mail to make sure you have not missed any messages from us.** Please check Canvas often for other notices on the home page.

DIVERSITY AND ACCESS

Our (virtual) classroom is one that is equitable, diverse, inclusive, and supportive. We respect and elevate each other. We are a team. Please remain respectful of your classmates, instructor, TA(s), and guest lecturers at all times.

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>.

LEARNING OUTSIDE OF CANADA (CONSIDERATIONS)

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

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POLICIES

Grading

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology classes are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. **However, in the spirit of flexibility and compassion in light of COVID-19 and the associated pivoting to online teaching, those departmental norms have been adjusted upwards by 5% for only 2020W.** According to these adjusted norms, the average grade in 100- and 200-level Psychology classes will be 72 for an exceptionally strong class, 70 for an average class, and 68 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 14. **The corresponding figures for 300- and 400-level classes will be 75, 73, and 71, with a standard deviation of 13.** Scaling may be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by an instructor or the department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record. You will receive both a percent and a letter grade for this course. At UBC, they convert according to the key below:

A+	90-100%	C+	64-67%
A	85-89%	C	60-63%
A-	80-84%	C-	55-59%
B+	76-79%	D	50-54%
B	72-75%	F	0-49%
B-	68-71%		

Disputing a Grade

Any complaint about a graded item should be made in writing to your TA and should detail the point of contention. **All complaints should be made within 1 week of receiving your grade.** After 1 week, we will not accept complaints. If you received your mark on a Tuesday, you will have until the end of the day on the final Tuesday to file a complaint.

Missing a Quiz

There are no make-ups. For course policies regarding in-term academic concessions, please refer to the relevant UBC calendar entry: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>
Faculty of Arts-specific information here: <https://www.arts.ubc.ca/degree-planning/academic-performance/academic-concession/>

Late Assignment

In the absence of concession (see concession link above), there is a 10% penalty per day for lateness and an assignment 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).

Academic Integrity

"The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at <http://calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>."

University Policies

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. Details of the policies and how to access support are available **here** (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>)

RESOURCES

The Equity and Inclusion Office has put together a list of resources to help you when you need it, available at <https://equity.ubc.ca/resources/students/>. Here are some:

The Centre for Accessibility

Provides support for students with a disability or ongoing medical condition (academic accommodations, exam accommodations, financial support and assistance).

Tel: 604.822.5844

Email: accessibility@ubc.ca

Counselling Services

Offers a variety of services to help you manage mental health concerns

Tel: 604.822.3811

The Wellness Centre

Includes a staff of trained student volunteers available to help you with mental and physical health

Tel: 604.822.8450

Email: wellness.centre@ubc.ca

Here2Talk

A mental health service which provides free, confidential counselling as well as community referral services 24/7 via app, phone and web.

Tel: 1-877-857-3397 (Canada-wide toll free)

Tel: 604-642-5212 (direct)

HOW CAN I DO WELL IN THIS COURSE?



Page 1 Image: Photo by [Vlad Tchompalov](#) on [Unsplash](#)

SCHEDULE

Module	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	12-Jan	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology 1	Ch 1 Article: https://bit.ly/3qHBCE2
	14-Jan	Cognitive Neuroscience 1	Ch 2
	19-Jan	Cognitive Neuroscience 2	Ch 2
	21-Jan	Cognitive Neuroscience 3	Ch 2
	26-Jan	Quiz 1	-
2	28-Jan	Perception 1	Ch 3
	02-Feb	Perception 2	Ch 3
	04-Feb	Attention 1	Ch 4
	09-Feb	Attention 2	Ch 4
	11-Feb	Quiz 2	-
	16-Feb	Reading Week	-
	18-Feb		-
3	23-Feb	Short-Term Memory	Ch 5
	25-Feb	Podcast Week	Podcasts will be posted on Canvas.
	02-Mar	Paper How To (Led by Instructors + TAs) Live during scheduled class time (+ recorded)	-
	04-Mar	Long-Term Memory: Structure 1 Participation Assignment Due	Ch 6
	09-Mar	Long-Term Memory: Structure 2	Ch 6
	11-Mar	Quiz 3	-
4	16-Mar	Watch Documentary	Documentary: https://t.co/00cmOGs61i?amp=1
	18-Mar	Paper Due	-
	23-Mar	Long-Term Memory: Encoding and Retrieval	Ch. 7
	25-Mar	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors 1	Ch 8
	30-Mar	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors 2	Ch 8
	06-Apr	Visual Imagery (Guest Lecture: Will Orwig)	Ch 10
	08-Apr	Quiz 4	-

