

Course Description

This course will introduce you to cognitive processes, with a focus on important people, perspectives, principles, and practices. We will briefly review some historical information, then delve into research methods, the brain, sensation and perception, consciousness, language, memory, learning and thinking. Importantly, this course will teach you things you might not have known about yourself (and others!), and help you to develop your critical thinking, skills as a student, and apply research in psychological science daily life.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize important people and describe perspectives in the history of cognitive psychology
2. Identify how neural structures are connected to various psychological processes
3. Understand and explain common psychological science research practices related to cognition
4. Describe theories and research on sensation/perception, consciousness, language, learning, memory, and thinking
5. Appreciate applications of cognitive processes to everyday life

Land Acknowledgement

Our course is provided by UBC Point Grey (Vancouver), which sits on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) First Nation.

The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

Teaching Team



Kyle Gooderham

Office Hours By Appointment
Email kyle@psych.ubc.ca
About I am a PhD candidate in the Cognitive area. My research focuses on how lifestyle factors, like physical activity, sleep, and dietary habits, impact cognitive function. In my spare time I enjoy participating in and watching sports, cooking, and listening to music.

Eric Mercadante

Office Hours By Appointment
Email eric.mercadante@psych.ubc.ca
About I am a third-year PhD student



in the Social-Personality area. My research interests concern how and why people navigate social hierarchies and how personality traits and emotional processes influence these processes.

Maria Stahre

Office Hours By Appointment
Email mkstahre@psych.ubc.ca
About Former UBC psychology student and current Counselling Psychology MA student who studies implicit bias against religious and ethnic minorities. Lover of coffee, chocolate and books.



Course Materials

Textbook

Goldstein, E. B. (2019). *Cognitive psychology: Connecting mind, research, and everyday experience* (5th ed.). Cengage Learning.

I do not recommend that you use any other edition of the textbook as there may be differences in material. You may purchase a physical or digital copy.

Canvas

Lecture materials and recordings, assessments, and grades will be available through UBC Canvas.

Learning Assessments

Learning Assessment	Date	Percent of Total Grade
Chapter Quizzes	Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10	4%
Midterm 1	Feb 15	23%
Midterm 2	Mar 15	23%
Okay Stop Project	Apr 2	15%
Final Exam	TBD	35%
Total		100%
Bonus REC credits	Ongoing	3%

Learning Appraisal Descriptions

Chapter Quizzes

For each assigned chapter you will complete a chapter quiz. All chapter quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions. Questions will be structured to test your understanding and application of concepts rather than rote memorization. The purpose of the chapter quizzes is to help you prepare for exams.

After the due date and cut-off time, chapter quizzes will no longer be available for credit. There are no extensions for chapter quizzes.

Examinations

The midterms and the final exam will consist of multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. These will draw on both lectures and the readings and, for superior performance, you must have a clear understanding of both these sources of course content.

The final exam will be longer than the midterms and will be cumulative.

“Okay Stop” Project

For this assignment, you will choose one (video) scene from a TV show or a movie and analyze with an eye towards course concepts. This assignment can be done alone/independently or in pairs. You can complete your assignment as a video or as a set of PowerPoint slides. More information will be posted on Canvas.

Research Experience Component (REC/HSP credits/Library Assignments)

You have the opportunity to earn up to three (3) extra percentage points on your overall final grade by participating in studies regularly conducted by the Psychology Department and coordinated through the human subject pool (HSP). This provides the valuable opportunity to observe the research process directly and to contribute to the ongoing research activities at UBC. The extra grades are obtained by signing up for the Introductory Psychology Subject Pool through their website: <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com>. Please note that any inquiries about credits should be directed to HSP or the experimenters that you worked with, not the instructor. One percentage point is assigned to your final grade for each hour of participation. Credits can be recorded and tracked via the subject credit website. These credits are added to your grade at the end of the course. If you do not correctly assign your credits to this course, you will NOT receive credit so please make sure you have done this correctly.

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. For each summary, you must select a research article (not a letter to the editor, commentary, or review paper) published between 2000 and the present in the journal *Psychological Science*. Each summary should be about 500 words and should describe the research question, methods, and results of the study presented in the article. Complete instructions on how to complete the library-writing projects can be found on p.4 (“The Library Option”) of the guide at <https://psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/opportunities/human-subject-pool/> in the document entitled “Subject Pool Information for Participants.” You must adhere to the complete instructions detailed in the guide to receive your credits.

Any student who is suspected of plagiarism will, at a minimum, not be granted credit, and their course instructor will be notified. Further action may be taken at a departmental or university level.

The HSP system closes on the last day of classes. This will be your final day to earn research participation credits, and the final day to assign credits to this course.

University & Departmental 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, spiritual and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available [here](#).

Details of Campus-wide Policies and Regulations are available at:
<https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,0,0,0>.

Access and Diversity

UBC is committed to providing Accommodation to promote human rights, equity and diversity, and to comply with its duty under the British Columbia *Human Rights Code* to make its services and facilities available in a manner that does not discriminate. Students will be Accommodated in a way that respects their dignity, privacy and autonomy.

UBC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all 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 <https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students for religious and cultural observances.

Conduct

The University of British Columbia envisions a climate in which students, faculty and staff are provided with the best possible conditions for learning, researching, and working, including an environment that is dedicated to excellence, equity, and mutual respect. The University of British Columbia strives to realize this vision by establishing employment and educational practices that respect the dignity of individuals and make it possible for everyone to live, work and study in a positive and supportive environment, free from harmful behaviours such as bullying and harassment. Please make sure that you’re familiar with the University’s Respectful Environment policy at: <https://hr.ubc.ca/working-ubc/respectful-environment>.

University courses should be conducive to learning and rigorous intellectual inquiry within a context in which everyone feels included and respected—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, political or religious affiliations, ability, age, social status, etc. All students in this class are encouraged to express themselves thoughtfully when discussing course material; and, when you do express yourself, it's important that you do so in a manner that shows respect for every other member of this class.

You can find additional information about resources pertaining to equity, diversity, and inclusion on the Psychology Department's website: <https://psych.ubc.ca/about/equity-inclusion/>.

All interactions must be done with respect and courtesy. There is a zero-tolerance policy for bullying or harassment and failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity

Cheating on exams will result in a score of 0 for that exam. Assignments must be completed independently. Sharing your answers to assignment questions or using another student's work is considered cheating and will result in a score of 0 for that assignment. All forms of cheating will be reported to the university for appropriate action. Failure to comply with the Academic Conduct policy will result in sanctions and disciplinary measures.

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. First, the Department uses 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 (e.g., papers, lab assignments) that students submit for grading may be scanned and compared to over five 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 students 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.

If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult me.

Details on the University's Discipline for Academic Misconduct policy is available at: <https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.

Withdrawals

Withdrawal from this course without record of the course on your transcript must occur before 21 Jan 2022 or before 4 Mar 2022 for withdrawal with a standing of "W" on your transcript.

Health and Wellbeing

UBC is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you, or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed and/or in need of support, services are available. Please visit <https://students.ubc.ca/health/counselling-services> for more information.

Please contact me immediately for any health or wellbeing concerns.

COVID-19

We will follow the advice of the Campus Return Plan. Further information will be provided about the delivery of the course in accordance with the appropriate University and Provincial orders.

Course Policies

Course Structure

Lectures will be delivered in person during regularly scheduled class time and livestreamed. The lectures will be recorded and made available so that they can be viewed later. *If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend class.*

Classroom Conduct

Any behaviour that is not conducive to effective learning and a positive classroom environment will not be tolerated. Some classroom behaviours, including distracting audio or visual stimuli (eg. texting, using social media), are particularly detrimental. Disruption or conduct detrimental to the class may result in you being removed from the classroom.

Email

I check my email regularly during business hours and you may anticipate a reply within two business days of your email. When emailing, please include “PSYC 309” as well as your full name and student number in the subject line.

Assessments

Obtaining Concession

If you are unable to complete an assessment on or by the assigned date you will need to apply for academic concession. For course policies regarding in-term academic concessions, please refer to the relevant UBC [calendar entry](#). Faculty of Arts-specific information is [here](#). For your first request for concession, please fill out the [self-declaration form](#) and notify me. If you are making additional requests for concession, please contact [Arts Academic Advising](#) and notify me.

Missed Assessments

You are expected to write all exams and complete all assessments by the specified dates. If you miss an assessment for a valid reason, you must contact the instructor *before the assessment* or as soon as possible after the assessment’s due date. Students who miss an assessment will receive a score of 0. If you miss an assessment due to unforeseen yet serious circumstances, it is your responsibility to provide suitable documentation no later than two days after the assessment was originally scheduled to verify your absence.

Please contact me immediately if you are unable to complete an assessment on time. In all cases, the earlier you can provide your request for accommodation, the greater the likelihood that accommodation can be arranged.

Late Assessments

In the absence of concession there is a 10% penalty per day for lateness for assessment and the assessment will not be accepted if it is more than one week late.

Examinations

Makeup exams are subject to instructor approval and can only be taken within **one-week** of the original exam date (unless your circumstance warrants a longer period). If you miss an exam for any other reason (e.g., sleeping in, forgetting there was an exam, etc.), you will receive a 0 on the exam.

Reviewing Examinations

You may review your midterm exam after the exam marks are released by requesting to see it during TA office hours. Your TA will be available to answer any questions or concerns regarding your exams. Should you be unable to attend TA office hours, you may arrange a separate appointment to see your exam **within two-weeks** of the grades being released. Following this two-week period, your exam will not be available.

Grades

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 average grade in a 300- and 400-level Psychology courses are 70 for an exceptionally strong class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, 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 the professor or department. *Please note these averages will be raised by 5% (relative to previous years) to reflect the unique circumstances of this academic year.* 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.

Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade	Percent
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 the instructor and should detail the point of contention. All complaints should be made within **one-week** of receiving your grade. After 1 week, we will not accept complaints.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

All readings for this course are copyrighted and cannot be redistributed without permission of the copyright owner. Lecture videos and other course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor(s) and cannot be redistributed (e.g., posted on any other website, or shared in any other way) without the permission of the instructor. Violation of these policies may lead to academic discipline.

Additional Resources

Additional resources may also be helpful as you contend with the challenges of taking university courses during a pandemic, and dealing with life's challenges more broadly.

- Guidance for online classes: <https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/>
- Assistance with working remotely: <https://it.ubc.ca/ubc-it-guide-working-campus>
- Guidance on useful skills for students: <https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/student-toolkits/>
- Student's guide to Canvas: <https://students.canvas.ubc.ca/>
- COVID-19 health guidance: <https://covid19.ubc.ca/health-guidance/>

- Mental health support: <https://students.ubc.ca/health/mental-health-during-covid-19>
- Counselling Services: <https://students.ubc.ca/health/counselling-services>
- Wellness Centre: <http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/wellness-centre>
- Student Health Services: <http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/student-health-service>

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings & Activities
1	Jan 11		
2	Jan 18	Introduction to Cognitive Science; Cognitive Neuroscience	<i>Syllabus</i> , Ch. 1, Ch. 2
3	Jan 25	Perception	Ch. 3
4	Feb 1	Perception; Attention	Ch. 3, Ch. 4
5	Feb 8	Attention	Ch. 4
6	Feb 15	Midterm 1 (Ch. 1-4); Short-Term Memory	Ch. 5
7	Feb 22	<i>Reading Break</i>	<i>No class.</i>
8	Mar 1	Long-Term Memory	Ch. 6, Ch. 7
9	Mar 8	Long-Term Memory; Everyday Memory & Memory Errors	Ch. 6, Ch. 7, Ch. 8
10	Mar 15	Midterm 2 (Ch. 5-8); Conceptual Knowledge	Ch. 9
11	Mar 22	Language	Ch 11
12	Mar 29	Problem-Solving & Creativity	Ch. 12 Okay Stop Project (due April 2 @ 11:59pm)
13	Apr 5	Judgements, Decisions, & Reasoning	Ch. 13
Final Exam (cumulative, during final exam period [Apr 12 – Apr 27] TBD by registrar)			

The course schedule is subject to change as the term progresses. Updates will be announced in class.

The Final Exam will take place during the final exam period, which runs from April 12 to April 27. Saturdays are included in the final exam period. Your attendance at the final exam is mandatory.

You should not make travel plans until you learn the date of your final exam. You cannot take the final at a different date/time unless you have a verifiable medical reason.