Psychology 351A (A01), Spring 2017 – Course Syllabus

PSYCHOLOGY 351A – Section A01
Cognitive Psychology
Spring (Jan. - Apr.) 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time: MTh 11:30 am – 12:50 am</th>
<th>Room: Elliot Building 167</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor: David Medler</td>
<td>Teaching Assistant: Morgan Teskey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office: COR A277</td>
<td>Office: COR A045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours: By Appointment</td>
<td>Office Hours: By Appointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 250-721-6108 (email is preferable)</td>
<td>Phone: 250-721-7545 (email is preferable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:dmedler@uvic.ca">dmedler@uvic.ca</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:morganteskey@gmail.com">morganteskey@gmail.com</a></td>
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Course Description and Objectives

Cognitive psychology emphasizes a detailed understanding of mental processes using studies of human behavior such as verbal reports and speeded responses. Topics will include domains such as perception, attention, memory, object identification, language processing, problem solving, reasoning, and decision making. In addition, to lecture material, students will be given the opportunity to participate in classical cognitive psychology experiments to get first-hand knowledge of experimental designs and to solidify the concepts in the course.

Resource Materials

Required text:

Cognitive Psychology and its Implications
Eighth Edition ©2015

John R. Anderson

ISBN-10: 1-4641-4891-0

Experimental Website: www.psytoolkit.org

Course Website: The PsyC 351A (A01) Website will be accessible through the UVIC CourseSpaces system. This site includes links for emailing the course instructor, as well as an online copy of the course outline, posted lecture notes, and other course information and links. Online quizzes will be conducted through the CourseSpaces site. Please note that I recommend using Firefox to access CourseSpaces.

iClicker Responses: In order to assess concept attainment in class, iClickers will be used during the lectures. You will be graded on your correct responses. Each correct iClicker response will be worth 0.1% of your total grade, to a maximum of 5%. It is expected that there will be approximately 60+ iClicker questions distributed throughout the term, which means that you should bring your iClicker to every class. As only the top 50 iClicker points count towards your final mark, there are no make-up questions, etc.

Note: Do not register your clicker at the iclicker.com web site, as UVic instructors will only synchronize their iClicker rosters with the university’s own registration system at uvic.ca/iclickerreg (See the “iClicker registration” section of this course outline for details on registering your iClicker.)
Tentative Lecture Schedule
(Please note that topics & dates are approximate and subject to change… we may take longer to cover certain topic. Changes will be posted on the course website on CourseSpaces and announced in class.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC / CHAPTER / EXPERIMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PART 1 – ENCODING THE WORLD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>05-Jan</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>09-Jan</td>
<td>Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-Jan</td>
<td>Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>Attention &amp; Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19-Jan</td>
<td>Attention &amp; Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>23-Jan</td>
<td>Mental Imagery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26-Jan</td>
<td>Mental Imagery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>30-Jan</td>
<td>Exam #1 on Chapters 1 – 4</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>PART 2 – KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>02-Feb</td>
<td>Representation of Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06-Feb</td>
<td>Representation of Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>09-Feb</td>
<td>Human Memory: Encoding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>No Class – Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>Human Memory: Storage</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23-Feb</td>
<td>Human Memory: Retention/Retrieval</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>27-Feb</td>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>02-Mar</td>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>06-Mar</td>
<td>Exam #2 on Chapter 5 – 8</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>PART 3 – HIGHER ORDER COGNITION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>09-Mar</td>
<td>Expertise</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13-Mar</td>
<td>Expertise</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>16-Mar</td>
<td>Reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>23-Mar</td>
<td>Decision Making</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27-Mar</td>
<td>Language Structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>30-Mar</td>
<td>Language Structure / Comprehension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>Language Comprehension</td>
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**Weekly Activities**

For each week of the course, you should engage in the following activities:

- Complete the assigned reading from the textbook.
- Complete and submit the Online Quizzes
- Attend all lectures, and take notes for study purposes.
- Bring your own iClicker to class, and use it to submit responses to surveys and problems.
- Complete the Experiment and answer the questions

*Final Exam T.B.A.*
Course Requirements and Marking

Your performance in the course will be evaluated based on exams, online quizzes, completion of experiments, and class participation. The breakdown for each component is as follows:

- Performance on 2 Midterm Exams (each worth 25%)
- Performance on 1 Final Exam to be written during the formal Final Exam period (worth 25%)
- Performance on Online Quizzes (worth 10%)
- Completion of Online Experiments and Questions (worth 10%)
- In-Class Participation via iClickers (worth 5%)

In addition, there are bonus points for research participation, up to a maximum of 2%.

It is your responsibility to let me know during the term as soon as possible if you are encountering any issues or problems that are preventing you from completing the course requirements.

GRADING (% of total marks)

Effective May 1, 2014, the letter grading system previously used at UVic was discontinued. Your final grade will be a straight percentage. Your final grade will be rounded at the 0.5% level (e.g., 84.50 will be rounded to 85; 84.49 will be rounded to 84).

Exams

The two midterms will be written in class, and will be 60 minutes each. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and fill-in-the blank questions. The final exam will be written during the formal Final Exam period, and will be 60 minutes long. All exams are non-cumulative.

Policy on missed exams: (Please read as this is important!)

Exams: You are responsible for attending exams as scheduled. NO make-up exams will be given. If you miss an exam due to illness, accident, or family affliction, you must send me an email as soon as possible indicating that you have missed the exam, and the reason for it. You must then supply written support for your absence (e.g., doctor’s note) within 10 days of missing the exam. In the case of illness, documentation should be dated on the day of the missed exam, or earlier indicating that you are likely ill for a couple of days, including the date of the exam. If you are too sick to attend the midterm, then you should see a doctor that day! Except in extreme circumstances (e.g., life-threatening illness) Medical Documentation dated after the exam date WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

If your documentation is accepted for the missing midterm, then a grade for that midterm will be generated by weighting your grades from the remaining exams. Students who miss two exams will receive a grade of “N” in the course as they will be deemed to have missed too much of the course material to have met course completion requirements.

ONLINE QUIZZES

Rationale for the Online Quizzes

You will complete the online Chapter quizzes within CourseSpaces. The Online Chapter Quizzes are designed to give you an added incentive to keep up with your reading in the course and to give you some practice in utilizing and applying the concepts and studies discussed in the textbook. Because it is much easier to start learning the course material well in advance than on the night before the exam, you are to complete online quizzes on a regular basis. If your experience matches that of students in previous years, you will be pleased that the quizzes helped to motivate and structure your studying.
Completing the Online Quizzes

- CourseSpaces will close the quizzes automatically one week after it is opened. Specific closing times will be listed on the CourseSpaces website under “Upcoming Events”. Please make sure you can COMPLETE the quiz by the due time.

- Problems with the CourseSpaces quiz function should immediately be reported to the instructor.

- There will be a total of up to 12 quiz opportunities during the semester. Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and/or fill in the blanks (spelling counts!), and you will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz once it begins. The bottom two quiz scores will be dropped (if there are 12 quizzes, only the top 10 will count). Your best bet is, of course, to do them all. This will allow the best chance for high marks on all the quizzes, and will help you to absorb the material for the exams. The worst strategy is to skip the first two and plan on doing the remainder. The best of system is designed to give students flexibility in case they have some weeks where personal or other circumstances keep them from completing the quizzes on time. If you discard your flexibility early in the semester and then something comes up later, you find yourself with no other option than to accept a low (or zero) mark on a quiz.

- Hence, you have the opportunity to miss two quizzes and still obtain full marks for the Quiz component. This is done in order to provide you with “extra” Quizzes that you can miss in case of illness or personal emergency. Because the “extra” two quizzes are there for this reason, there is not an additional opportunity to do make-up quizzes for illness or other reasons, as the two “extra” quizzes are the make-up quizzes.

iClicker RATIONALE AND GUIDELINES

A small percentage of your final mark (5%) is based on your in-class participation and performance with the iClicker Personal Response System. Psyc 351A (A01) utilizes the iClicker Personal Response System as a means of encouraging you to attend lectures and to participate in problem solving exercises, to participate in surveys and mini-tests that serve to increase your ongoing engagement and involvement with the course, and to provide you with immediate feedback regarding your understanding of the class material.

Extra Credit Opportunity

Students in this course may earn up to 2% extra credit toward their final grade by participating in research studies conducted in the Department of Psychology. Each 15 minutes of participation will earn 0.5 point and up to 4 points may be credited toward this course, with 2 points required for a 1% increase in the student's final grade. Thus, two hours of participation would earn the full 2% extra credit. For details on participating in research studies, go to the Department of Psychology web site (web.uvic.ca/psych), click on the Research link near the top of the page, then click on the Participant Pool link at the left of the new page to see instructions for participating in the system. You must be sure to assign your credits to this course (and this section of the course) no later than the last day of class, otherwise you will not receive extra credit in this course. Students not wishing to participate in research studies may complete a paper option to earn extra credit. To exercise this option, you must contact me no later than February 16. Details on CourseSpaces.

Online Experiments

This term you will be encouraged to engage in classic Cognitive Psychology experiments on the website [www.psytoolkit.org](http://www.psytoolkit.org). There are a total of 10 different experiments you will engage in for marks (there are many more on the website, and you are encouraged to do so). Following each experiment, you will upload your results to CourseSpaces, and answer some questions based on the experiment and the additional information/links/readings provided on the [www.psytoolkit.org](http://www.psytoolkit.org) website. Please note, the results from the experiments will only be used for teaching purposes, will be anonymized before presentation in class, and no demographic information is collected by [www.psytoolkit.org](http://www.psytoolkit.org). The two lowest marks from the Online Experiments will be dropped.
Prerequisites

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements

For more information see pages 383-386 of the UVic Calendar 2016-17.

Registration Status

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction (See UVic Calendar, 2016-17, p. 59-60)

What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled during the formal examination period

Do not apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”. Instead submit documentation of the illness, accident or family affliction directly to your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant).

What to do if you miss an exam scheduled during the formal exam period

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the formal examination period. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf

What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the formal examination period. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation. Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf
Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic integrity ([http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html), p. 55-58, UVic Calendar 2016–17). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else’s. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.

2. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.

3. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.

4. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.

5. **Being an Accessory to Offences.** This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence.

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar (on p. 55-58 in 2016-17).

**The definitive source** for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 55-58 in 2016–17) ([http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html))

**Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:**


2. The Ombudsperson’s office: [http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson/pubsguides/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson/pubsguides/plagiarism.pdf)