

**PSYCH 3140**  
**Cognitive Psychology**  
**Spring 2017**

**Class Time:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 am

**Location:** Arts & Science Building 114

**Instructor:** Dr. Lisa M. Bauer

Office: 215 McAlester Hall

Email: [bauerlm@missouri.edu](mailto:bauerlm@missouri.edu)

Phone: 882-3675

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:45pm (2:30 – 3:15pm on 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, and 5/2) and by appointment. Please feel free to email me to schedule an appointment. I am happy to meet with you at a time (Monday through Friday) that is convenient for both of us. Please email me from your MU account and let me know that you are enrolled in the Cognitive Psychology class.

**Teaching Assistant:**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2 – 4 pm

Location: 110 Noyes, Desk #6

### **Course Overview**

This course surveys psychological theory and research on human cognition. Topics include sensory memory, selective attention, pattern recognition, short-term and long-term memory, comprehension, language processing, decision making, and problem solving.

### **Course Objectives**

- Demonstrate knowledge about sensory memory, attention, pattern recognition, memory, language processing, decision making, reasoning, and problem solving
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of well-established cognitive theories
- Recognize and differentiate between various research methods used by cognitive psychologists
- Describe major experimental findings in the field of cognitive psychology
- Apply research in cognitive psychology to everyday life

### **Course Format**

Class meetings will consist of lecture, demonstrations, exercises, and videos.

### **Required Text**

Revlin, R. (2013). *Cognition: Theory and practice*. New York, NY: Macmillan Learning.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7167-5667-5

### **Supplementary Readings**

During the course of the semester, you will be asked to obtain peer-reviewed journal articles from the library. Some of the articles that you will need are available in electronic form from on-line databases. You have free access to these databases as a registered student at Mizzou. Other articles may not be available in electronic format and you will have to retrieve them from the library shelves or through inter-library loan.

## Use of Electronic Devices

While laptops and tablets are allowed in class for note-taking purposes, I reserve the right to ask you to put away any electronic devices (including cell phones) if they are a distraction to myself or other students. Please place all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of class, and refrain from browsing the web or messaging during class time. In order to ensure a supportive learning environment, you may not record class and you may not take pictures of your classmates, your TA, and/or your professor during class. Please see additional policies on electronic/digital recordings on page 6 of this syllabus.

Based on research, I encourage you to take notes without using electronic devices (e.g.,

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131506001436>;

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254>;

<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/22/0956797614524581.short>)

## GRADING

### Exams (300 possible points)

There will be four exams. Exams will cover information presented in class (e.g., class notes, movies), information from the text, and any additional assigned readings. The exams consist of multiple-choice questions. Each exam, including the comprehensive final, will be worth 100 possible points. Only your top three exam grades will be counted toward your grade in the course. So, if you are happy with your grades on the first three exams, you may choose to skip the final exam, without it affecting your course grade. If you miss or perform poorly on one of the exams, rest assured that it will not be counted toward your grade for the course, assuming you've completed and scored better on the remaining three exams. Due to this flexibility, no make-up exams will be administered.

### Assignments (60 possible points)

You will be asked to complete two assignments (each worth a possible 30 points). During the course of the semester, I will post at least three assignment options. You must complete two of the assignments by turning in a project for each of 2 of the 3 due dates (see the tentative schedule for due dates). All assignments are due by 11:59 pm CST on the due date. If you choose to complete more than two assignments, your two highest scores will be used to determine your grade. All assignments will be made available and can be turned in on the course website: <http://bblearn.missouri.edu>. These assignments provide you with the opportunity to examine topics discussed in class in more depth. It is my hope that these assignments will help illustrate the topics discussed in class and will help you apply the concepts learned in class. Therefore, your assignments should reflect your *own* work. Turning in another person's work will result in academic/disciplinary sanctions for all parties involved. The expected format and content of the assignments will be discussed in more detail during class and the assignments and guidelines will be posted on Blackboard. *Late assignments (after 11:59 pm CST on the due date) will not be accepted and will receive a zero.* If you do not understand an assignment, please email me (or the TA) and/or meet with me (or the TA) *at least 3 days before* the due date.

The Writing Center is located in the Student Success Center. This center helps students polish and hone their writing skills regardless of their level of writing. You can learn more about the writing center by visiting:

<https://writery.missouri.edu/>.

## Grading Summary

Exams = 300 points (100 points x best 3 out of 4 exam grades)

Assignments = 60 points (30 points x best 2 out of 3 papers)

## Grading Rubric

Of the 360 possible points available during the semester, your point total will earn you a grade as follows:

A+ = 352.8+	B+ = 313.2+	C+ = 277.2+	D+ = 241.2+	F = < 216
A = 334.8+	B = 298.8 +	C = 262.8+	D = 226.8+	
A- = 324+	B- = 288+	C- = 252+	D- = 216+	

Final grades are determined by the points *you earn* in the class. *It is to your advantage to study throughout the semester so you are not in the position of missing the next higher grade by less than a point or two at the end of the semester.*

Because exam scores are adjusted immediately after each exam and applied to all students taking the exam and because I use your two highest assignment scores (out of 3) and offer an optional cumulative final to replace your lowest test score, no other grade adjustments are made. In the event that I feel any assignments or exams were too difficult, the grades will potentially be curved in favor of the entire class (by giving everyone extra points). Assignment and exam grades will never be curved against you. I reserve the right to change the nature, number, and weights of the course requirements. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard before they take effect.

## General Advice

1. Read the assigned readings and take notes. Reading the assigned materials before coming to class will enable you to participate more fully in classroom discussions and in-class activities. Additionally, reading ahead of time will help you know whether or not you understand the material. If you do not understand the material, you can see whether or not our class discussion helps. You may also ask relevant questions during the lecture. If you still have any questions, please stop by my office hours or your TA's office hours.
2. Attend class and participate in class. Your attendance is strongly encouraged. Throughout the course of the semester, I will ask you to actively participate in class. In order to increase classroom discussions and make sure you understand the assigned readings, I will provide several in-class activities. It is my hope that the in-class exercises will help illustrate and help you apply the concepts covered in class and in your text. In order to complete an in-class activity, you must be present in class. Regardless of attendance, you are responsible for all announcements made, policies set, and materials covered in class. Please note that the exams will include material covered in both the text and material covered in class (some of which will not be in your text). An absence does not mean that you can turn in any assignments late.
3. Take good notes. Make sure you are actively taking notes in class. In addition to making sure you have the information that appears on the PowerPoint slides, you should also write down the examples we discuss in class. Hopefully, these examples will give you additional ways to think about the material. While laptops and tablets are allowed in class for note-taking purposes, I reserve the right to ask you to put away any electronic devices (including cell phones) if they are a distraction to myself or other students. Based on research, I encourage you to take notes without using electronic devices.
4. Complete required assignments. During the course of the semester you will be asked to read journal articles and to answer questions regarding 1) the information presented in the journal article, 2) how the information is relevant to the theories and concepts discussed in class, and 3) how the information can be applied in everyday life. It is my hope that these assignments will help illustrate the topics discussed in class and will help you learn how to apply the concepts to everyday events.

5. Study early and often. As we will discuss in class, research shows that you will retain information better if you study the material over a period of time rather than cramming. Let's say you plan on studying for 12 hours. You are more likely to retain the information if you study for 2 hours a day for 6 days (spaced learning) than for 6 hours over 2 days (massed learning) or for 12 hours the night before an exam (massed learning/cramming). Research also shows that you will be able to better understand and retain the information if you: create your own study materials (e.g., study guides), make your own examples for concepts, test yourself often (e.g., create your own quiz/exam), and form/join a study group that stays on task. I would also recommend answering the review questions and completing the "Apply Your Knowledge" questions that are available at the end of each chapter. If you have any questions about the class material, please feel free to stop by during my office hours or the TA's office hours.

### Tentative Course Schedule

Below is the tentative schedule for topics that will be covered in class. In order to make sure you understand the material, please read the readings ahead of time.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 17 – 24	What is Cognitive Psychology? (Ch 1)
Jan 24 – 31	The Cognitive Science Approach (Ch 2)
Jan 31 – Feb 7	Attention (Ch 3)
Feb 7 – 16	Pattern Recognition (Ch 4)
<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>Assignment #1 Due (by 11:59 pm CST)</b>
<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1 – 4 and supplemental materials)</b>
Feb 23 – Mar 2	Short-Term Memory and Working Memory (Ch 5)
Mar 2 – 9	Long-Term Memory (Ch 6)
Mar 9 – 16	Knowledge (Ch 7)
Mar 16 – 23	Imagery (Ch 8)
<b>Mar 23</b>	<b>Assignment #2 Due (by 11:59 pm CST)</b>
<b>Apr 4</b>	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 5 – 8 and supplemental materials)</b>
Apr 6 - 13	Cognition and Emotion (This topic is not discussed in your text)
Apr 13 - 20	Language (Ch 9)
<b>Apr 25</b>	<b>Assignment #3 Due (by 11:59 pm CST)</b>
Apr 20 – May 2	Problem Solving, Reasoning, and Decision Making (Chs 11 – 13)
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 11, 12, 13, Cognition and Emotion, &amp; supplemental materials)</b>
<b>May 9 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>Optional Final Exam (7:30 – 8:45 am)</b> <b>The final takes place in the regularly scheduled classroom. You will have the same amount of time to complete the optional final as you had for the first 3 exams (1 hour and 15 minutes).</b>

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I will do my best to present the material as clearly as possible. If anything is unclear, please ask me to clarify the information. I will be available during my office hours (and am more than willing to make a separate appointment with you) to answer any questions that you may have.

**Please Note: This syllabus is subject to change.** Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. Depending on how long it takes to discuss each topic, changes may or may not be made to this tentative schedule.

## Other Policies and Resources

### Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of the University. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, please ask me.

### Electronic/Digital Recording

Lectures may **NOT** be recorded on video or cell phones. You may **NOT** take pictures during class. That is, you may not take pictures of the lecture slides, your classmates, your TA, and/or your professor during class. My lectures are protected by state common law and federal copyright law. Course materials prepared by the instructor (e.g., lectures, exams), together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor, are the property of the instructor. Therefore, you may **NOT** upload these materials to online sites (e.g., Course Hero, Study Blue). Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under Section 240.040 of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings and photographs of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of [Section 200.020](#) of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters. Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

### For Students with Disabilities

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Please schedule an appointment with me so we can discuss your accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

The University of Missouri System is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action institution and is nondiscriminatory relative to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. Any person having inquiries concerning the University of Missouri-Columbia's compliance with implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, or other civil rights laws should contact the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Human Resource Services, University of Missouri-Columbia, 130 Heinkel Building, Columbia, Mo. 65211, (573) 882-4256, or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. For more information, see: <http://diversity.missouri.edu/resources/equity.html>.

### Intellectual Pluralism

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental

Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the *Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities* (<http://osrr.missouri.edu>); or the *MU Equity Office* (<http://equity.missouri.edu>), or by email at [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu).