

PSYC 3334-001: Cognitive Processes

Spring 2023

Instructor Information

Instructor(s)

Crystal M. Cooper, Ph.D.

Office Number

413 Life Sciences Building

Office Telephone Number

MS Teams

Email Address

Crystal.Cooper@uta.edu

Office Hours

Office hours are flexible if done through Zoom, scheduled at the request of students.

I am available to meet in-person prior to class on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Other in-person appointments can also be made at the request of the student.

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 3334-001

Time and Place of Class Meetings

This course will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-5:20pm in LS 118.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

Dawn M. McBride, J. Cooper Cutting, and Corinne L. Zimmerman (2023). *Cognitive Psychology: Theory, Process, and Methodology*. (3rd Edition). Sage Publishing.

Course Description & Learning Objectives

- Gain an appreciation for cognitive psychology, which is the study of how the mind acquires, represents, and maintains knowledge.
- Discuss major findings and current thinking about a broad range of topics in Cognitive Psychology including several subdisciplines such as attention, memory, language, decision-making, reasoning, and others with a particular emphasis on interpreting basic research in memory and cognitive processes.
- Acquire a basic understanding of historical and currently important theories in cognitive psychology.
- Acquire basic tools for becoming critical consumers of cognitive psychological research.
- Gain theoretical knowledge as well as real-world practical knowledge regarding mental processes.

Technology Requirements

If the need arises, this class may utilize Canvas and MS Teams. You can access tutorials on these tools by clicking on the “Get Started” Box on your Canvas Homepage. Visit: [Canvas Login – Office of Information Technology – The University of Texas at Arlington \(uta.edu\)](#)

Grading Information

Grading

Grades from the exams will be worth 80% of your grade and grades from the activity days will be worth 20% of your grade (see below).

<u>Method of Evaluation</u>		<u>Approximate Grading Scale for Final Grades</u>		
Exam 1	100 pts	A	448-500 pts	(90-100 %)
Exam 2	100 pts	B	398-447 pts	(80-89 %)
Exam 3	100 pts	C	348-397 pts	(70-79 %)
Exam 4 (Final Exam)	100 pts	D	298-347 pts	(60-69 %)
Class Activities	<u>100 pts</u>	F	<= 297 pts	(00-59 %)
	(total) 500 pts			

Note: I do not give grades in this course, *you earn them*. Thus, your final grade will reflect the *total number of points you earn*. Grades will not be curved. For example, if you earn 447 total points at the end of the semester, you will have earned a B for the course. Please do not ask if there are additional extra credit opportunities at that point.

Final Grades are non-negotiable. I will round up grades that are .5 or higher (e.g., an 89.5 will round to a 90), but anything below that will not be rounded (e.g., an 89.4 will NOT round to a 90). Additionally, I will not be assigning + or – grades. If you feel I have made a mistake in grading one of your assignments or exams, discuss the issue with me immediately. When the end of the semester arrives, I will not consider any pleas for a grade adjustment.

Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog (see Graduate Grading Policies).

Course Schedule

Date	Week	Topic	Related Reading
Jan 18	W1	Syllabus / Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Syllabus & Chapter 1
Jan 23 & 25	W2	Cognitive Neuroscience	Chapter 2
Jan 30 & Feb 1	W3	Perception	Chapter 3
Feb 6 & 8	W4	Attention	Chapter 4
Feb 13 & 15	W5	Exam 1 (02/13); Memory	Chapter 5
Feb 20 & 22	W6	Long-Term Memory Retrieval	Chapter 6
Feb 27 & Mar 1	W7	Memory Errors	Chapter 7
Mar 6 & 8	W8	Exam 2 (03/06); Language	Chapter 8
Mar 13 & 15	-	Spring Break	-
Mar 20 & 22	W9	Concepts & Knowledge	Chapter 9
Mar 27 & 29	W10	Imagery	Chapter 10
Apr 3 & 5	W11	Exam 3 (04/03); Problem Solving	Chapter 11
Apr 10 & 12	W12	Reasoning	Chapter 12
Apr 17 & 19	W13	Decision Making	Chapter 13
Apr 24 & 26	W14	Cognitive Development	Chapter 14
May 1 & 3	W15	Activity Day; Student Study Day	
May 5	W16	Exam 4 - Final Exam (05/05) @ 2 - 4:30 pm	

You are responsible for reading the assigned chapter(s) before you come to class. *Note: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. I understand that students, and classes, may move through the material at different rates and may bring to the course different backgrounds. Thus, I reserve the right to modify the readings and activities to meet the needs of the class.* Any changes in the schedule, including readings will be announced in class. Students are required to attend entire class periods and to pay close attention in order to be aware of any scheduling changes.

Class Activities Information

Lectures

The format for this course will be mainly lecture-based and some in-class activities. In lectures, we will explore important concepts and review issues in greater depth than offered in your textbook. Lectures may include new material that is not covered in the text. PowerPoint will be used to facilitate lectures. A simple version of the powerpoints will be posted on canvas.

Class Activities

We will have in-class activities throughout the term. Each may involve completing assigned readings outside of class prior to the in-class activity day or completing an in-class activity. These activities will be worth up to 100 points by the end of the semester. Note that these in-class activities will only be accepted when they are completed in class on the day the assignment is given. If you miss class, you cannot make up that day's activity, unless rare extenuating circumstances occur (e.g., death of a family member, military service, jury duty, UTA verified events, medical emergencies). Appropriate documentation must be provided. Follow-up calls may be made for verification. Please note that missing an in-class activity day due to traffic is not an extenuating circumstance.

Exams

There will be four unit exams: three during the semester, and one during final exam week. Each exam will be mainly multiple choice. However, based on class needs, they may include true/false, matching, ordering, and short answer questions, with question point values related to their difficulty and effort required to answer them (e.g., short answer questions are worth more than true/false questions). Each exam will total to 100 points.

Late Work: Exams and in-class assignments may be completed with no loss of points within 48 hours of the missed deadline with documented absences (e.g., doctor's note, car accident report, etc.) or university excused absences (with email from appropriate authority). With appropriate documentation, this deadline can be extended to account for extenuating circumstances.

Extra Credit Opportunities by Obtaining Research Experience

You may earn extra credit in this class by participating in psychological research conducted in the Department of Psychology at UTA. Extra credit can add up to 3% of your final course grade (e.g., moving your final grade from an 87% to a 90%). Extra credit will be added to the total points earned in this course. To receive the maximum 3% increase to your course grade, you must participate in 6 hours and assign them to this class (0.5 points per hour). If you participate in fewer than 6 hours, you will earn a fraction of the total number available (e.g., hours completed/6). For instance, if you obtain 3 hours, you earned 50% ($3/6 = .50$) of the extra credit available, adding 1.5% ($3\% \times .50$) to your final grade. In other words, you will earn extra credit for the hours that you complete and assign to this class. Please note that there is no guarantee that enough experiments will be available for you to collect all 6 hours. Also note that even if you earn the maximum extra credit available, your final letter grade may not change (e.g., a 3% increase from 83% is 86%, which is still a B).

Visit: [Psychology Research Participation \(sona-systems.com\)](http://sona-systems.com)

Institutional Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

Face Covering Policy

Face coverings are not mandatory, all students and instructional staff are welcome to wear face coverings while they are on campus or in the classroom.

Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to verify Federal Student Aid recipients' attendance in courses. UT Arlington instructors should be prepared to report the last date of attendance as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty must report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence of academic engagement such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

As the instructor of this section, I do not require attendance, but I firmly believe regular and punctual attendance is essential. That said, my preference is to treat you and your peers as adults who do not require policing in this manner. For this course, the nature of in-class assignments will also serve as an attendance measure. In-class assignments/attendance will provide an opportunity for you to get 100 points and potentially drop your lowest exam grade.

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, as [detailed in this map \(.pdf\)](#). When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Students should also be encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at [Emergency Communication System](#).

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For

additional information visit: [Academic Success Center](#). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [form](#).

The **IDEAS Center** (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE tutoring** and **mentoring** to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR)

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center \(https://uta.mywconline.com\)](https://uta.mywconline.com). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor [Academic Plaza \(http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza\)](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](#) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves. [Nicole Spoor](#) is the library contact for Psychology.

Research or General Library Help

Ask for Help

- [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/) (ask.uta.edu/)
- [Research Coaches](http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach) (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

Resources

- [Library Tutorials](http://library.uta.edu/how-to) (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- [Subject and Course Research Guides](http://libguides.uta.edu) (libguides.uta.edu)
- [Librarians by Subject](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- [Course Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- [Study Room Reservations](http://openroom.uta.edu/) (openroom.uta.edu/)

Emergency Phone Numbers

In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381