

PSYC 3334: Cognitive Processes

Summer 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor

Bonnie B. Laster, Ph.D. CCSP

Email Address

bonnie.laster@uta.edu **official means of communication* *do NOT utilize Teams chat**

Faculty Profile

<https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=lasterbb>

Office Hours

By appointment via TEAMS

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 3334-002/003

Time and Place of Class Meetings

M-Th 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Synchronous (live) web lecture via TEAMS

*You will **not** need a laptop camera or webcam for synchronous lecture*

Description of Course Content: Current theory and research in cognitive processes such as learning and memory, information processing, concept formation, and problem solving. Prerequisite: PSYC 1315.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will identify, describe and discuss biological, psychological, social and political factors in the study of cognitive processes.
Students will identify and describe the major concepts in cognition and cognitive development, distinguish among major theoretical orientations, and discuss empirical and historical trends.
Students will explore issues related to social and personal cognitive structures to encourage ethical and social responsibility in a diverse world.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

McBride, Cutting & Zimmerman (2023). Cognitive Processes. 3rd ed. with Vantage platform. Sage. ISBN: 9781071871836 (Digital: \$64.80)

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

Quizzes: There will be 5 weekly quizzes, each worth 30 points. Quizzes include multiple choice, T/F and matching questions requiring students to apply material from assigned readings, class discussions, and class lecture material (including video, discussions, and in-class activities). Quizzes will be administered via Canvas; you will **not** need lockdown browser or a webcam.

Sage Vantage Assignments: 206 pts. Throughout each chapter, students will answer brief multiple choice and/or short answer questions through Canvas (linked to Sage Vantage).

Technology Requirements

This course will utilize Canvas, Teams, Sage Vantage and UTA email. Students can access tutorials on these tools by clicking on the “Get Started” Box on their Canvas Homepage. You will not need a laptop camera or webcam.

Grading Information

Grading

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Quizzes	5	30	150
Textbook activities	various	4-5	206
Total Course Points:			356

Final Grade Policy: This class will utilize an unweighted points system. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of total points earned. To calculate individual student final grades, add up the total points earned on each graded item and divide that sum by the total maximum points for the course. Multiply by 100 to get the percentage. Final grades falling 9.5 and above will be rounded up (e.g., 89.5 will round to an A, 79.5 will round to a B, etc). Final grades falling below this will not be rounded up. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Quiz Day/Assignment Policy: **There will be NO make-up exams or assignment extensions except for extreme circumstances/emergencies (criteria professor’s discretion).** The schedule notes the dates for all, giving you plenty of time to make arrangements accordingly. Any makeup exam/assignments that meet the extreme criteria must be scheduled IN ADVANCE of the due date. If, for whatever reason, extreme circumstances arise ON exam day, you are responsible for contacting me **PRIOR TO THE START OF CLASS to apprise me of the situation. WAITING UNTIL THE TEST HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED/DUE DATE HAS PASSED IS UNACCEPTABLE.** Be prepared to provide documentation of the circumstance. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in an automatic “0” for that exam grade. University-related absences are exempted from this policy, but you are still required to notify me in advance of such a conflict.

Technology note for exams and assignments: All quizzes and assignments will be due via Canvas at **11:59 p.m. CST** on their designated due dates. To account for potential technology and other issues (loss of WIFI, laptop issues, cats playing with modem, boss calling you into work last minute, forgetting when the assignment was due, traveling, falling asleep unexpectedly, etc.), I

HIGHLY recommend submitting **EARLY**. Exams/assignments will not be available for submission past 11:59 p.m. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Course Schedule

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.... This schedule may change! –B.B. Laster

Date	Subject	Reading	Assignments Due
Mon June 3	Intro/syllabus, etc. Intro to Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 1	
Tues June 4	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch. 2	
Wed June 5	Con't	Ch. 2	
Thurs June 6	Quiz 1 Open 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.		Knowledge checks: 1.1-1.4 2.1-2.2 Video activity 2.1
Mon June 10	Perception	Ch. 3	
Tues June 12	Attention	Ch. 4	
Wed June 12	Con't		
Thurs June 13	Quiz 2 Open 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.		Knowledge checks: 3.1-3.4 4.1-4.5 Video activities 3.1-4.1
Mon June 17	Memory Structures and Processes	Ch. 5	
Tues June 18	Long Term Memory Retrieval	Ch. 6	
Wed June 19	Juneteenth: No class		
Thurs June 20	Quiz 3 Open 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.		Knowledge checks: 5.1-5.5 6.1-6.5 Video activities 5.1-6.1
Mon June 24	Memory Errors	Ch. 7	
Tues June 25	Language	Ch. 8	

Wed June 26	Con't		
Thurs June 27	Quiz 4 Open 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.		Knowledge checks: 7.1-7.4 8.1-8.4 Video activity 7.1
Mon July 1	Imagery	Ch. 10	
Tues July 2	Con't		
Wed July 3	Problem Solving	Ch. 11	Knowledge checks: 10.1-10.5, 11.1-11.5 Video activity 11.1
Thurs July 8	Quiz 5 Open 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.		

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

Grade grievance procedure: <https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/degree-programs/graduate/graduate-resources/student-grievance-form>

Counseling and Psychological Services <https://www.uta.edu/caps/services/Lets%20Talk.php>

Students experiencing a crisis may call MAVS Talk 24 Hour Crisis Line 817-272-TALK (8255) or UTA Police: 817-272-3003

Additional Information

Email Response: UTA email is my official means of communication. **Please do NOT utilize Canvas or Teams chat to contact me.** I will respond to all emails within 24-48 hours.

Attendance

This synchronous web course requires regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance.

Recording of Class: Although class sessions will be recorded via TEAMS, this technology is not perfect. There could very likely be times when the video doesn't record, etc. Students should NOT rely on the class recordings as their sole source of information. Recordings are provided as a courtesy for students who may need to miss an occasional class due to illness, etc.

Academic Integrity/Sharing of Class Resources: Students may not post materials from this course on the Internet (with the exception of Canvas submissions) or share course materials. Doing so will be considered academic misconduct. This policy helps protect the integrity of the resources developed for this class and ensures equality for all students.

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.

Emergency Phone Numbers

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

Library Information

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/)

Academic Resources: I am happy to discuss strategies and resources to assist in your success. In the meantime, here's what I recommend:

1. Actively participate in remote class: My goal is to teach you, but I also expect to learn from you. Therefore, class discussions are imperative. Log into class prepared to discuss concepts and voice your opinion or type into the TEAMS chat. My intent is to break down concepts in lecture, thereby helping you understand them and making the text easier to understand.
2. Take notes: My lecture will strongly follow the text. **Use the outlines which are provided to you.** Take notes on what is discussed in class and review them as soon as possible after class.
3. Ask yourself questions while studying to determine if you are truly grasping the concepts. In short, engage in metacognition! Try to define terms in your own words. If you can generate your own definitions for terms and create examples from your own experiences, you will be better able to understand and retain the information. I rarely test for definitions on exams – I typically give students a practical application to “define” the concept at hand. Don't just memorize definitions; take the time to develop a real-world example. **This can make a huge difference.**
4. Note: I will frequently voice my opinion on topics throughout class. You will never have to guess how I feel about a topic! However, please note I will always respect and encourage your opinion, no matter how divergent from my own. Class is a safe place: please know your thoughts and opinions are always welcome. You are always welcome to disagree with me!