PSYC 3761 - Cognition

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 40399,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

James Juergensen

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Associate Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from Case Western Reserve University (2014)

Master's in Experimental Psychology from Case Western Reserve University (2012)

Bachelor's in Psychology from Youngstown State University (2009)

Instructor Office Location: Beeghly Hall 4104

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Course Description

3761. Cognition. Experimental methods, research findings, and current theories concerned with human cognitive processes. The information-processing approach, focusing on how information is transformed, stored, manipulated, and retrieved. Topics include attention, pattern recognition and categorization, memory, and language. Prereq.: PSYC 2617. 3 s.h.

Professor's Additional Course Description:

Cognitive Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes. We will explore how the mind works (and how it often times doesn't work). We will study how perceptual information enters the mind, how attention is used to select from the array of available incoming sensory information, how knowledge is organized in memory, how new information is added to memory, how information is retrieved from memory, how information is conveyed to others via language, and how current knowledge is transformed and expanded by inductive and deductive reasoning. We will also discuss how mental processes are carried out in the living brain. Throughout the course we will discuss theories of mind in which simple ideas are built into powerful psychological theories. We will discuss how cognitive psychologists build theories (or models) of mental processes, and how these models are used to understand and predict behavior. We will also explore the idea within Cognitive Psychology that our minds often interpret information in ways that, although may be more efficient, can lead to systematic errors in judgment and reasoning.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Thinking, Fast and Slow	Daniel Kahneman	9780374533557
	Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience - Enhanced MindTap	Bruce Goldstein	8220127943703

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25		Course Introduction	
Thu	8/27		Goldstein Ch 1 Introduction	

Tue	9/1		Goldstein Ch 3 Perception	
Thu	9/3	Kahneman Ch 1 & 2	Two systems; cognitive effort	Kahneman Key Concept #1
Tue	9/8		Goldstein Ch 4 Attention	Simple Detection & Muller-Lyer Labs
Thu	9/10	Kahneman Ch 3 & 4	Associative Machine; Lazy Thinking	Kahneman Key Concept #2
Tue	9/15		Emotion Lecture; Cognitive Ease	Stroop & Attentional Blink Labs
Thu	9/17	Kahneman Ch 5 & 7	Finish Emotion; Brief Review	Kahneman Key Concept #3
Tue	9/22		Exam #1	Partial Report and Brown Peterson Labs
Thu	9/24	Kahneman Ch 9 & 10	Substitution; Law of Small Numbers	Kahneman Key Concept #4
Tue	9/29		Goldstein Ch 5 STM & WMC	
Thu	10/1	Kahneman Ch 11 & 12	Goldstein Ch 6 LTM: Structure; Anchoring; Availability	Kahneman Key Concept #5
Tue	10/6		Goldstein Ch 7 LTM	Operation Span and Mental Rotation Labs
Thu	10/8	Kahneman Ch 13 & 14	Availability; Tom W	Kahneman Key Concept #6
Tue	10/13		Exam #2	
Thu	10/15	Kahneman Ch 15 & 17	Linda; Regression to the Mean	Kahneman Key Concept #7
Tue	10/20		Goldstein Ch 8 LTM extended	Encoding Specificity and Levels of Processing Labs
Thu	10/22	Kahneman Ch 19 & 20	Illusions of Skill and Validity	Kahneman Key Concept #8
Tue	10/27		Cognitive Control of Emotions Lecture	
Thu	10/29	Kahneman Ch 21 & 22	Formulas and Expert Intuition	Kahneman Key Concept #9
Tue	11/3		Time Perception Lecture	
Thu	11/5	Kahneman Ch 23 & 25	Outside View; Bernoulli's Error	Kahneman Key Concept #10
Tue	11/10		Exam #3	
Thu	11/12	Kahneman Ch 26 & 27	Prospect Theory; Endowment Effect	Kahneman Key Concept #11
Tue	11/17		Motivation Lecture	
Thu	11/19	Kahneman Ch 29 & 34	Fourfold Pattern; Framing	Kahneman Key Concept #12
Tue	11/24		Goldstein Ch 11 Language	Word Superiority and Lexical Decision-Making Labs
Thu	11/26		Happy Thanksgiving!	
Tue	12/1		Goldstein Ch 12 Problem Solving	Risky Decisions and Monty Hall Labs
Thu	12/3	Kahneman Ch 35 & 36	Two Selves; Life as a Story Final Exam Review; Wrap up	Kahneman Key Concept #13
Tue	12/8		Finals week, no class on this day	
Thu	12/10		Final Exam Thursday December 10th 8:00-10:00 AM	

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.