

PSYC 3761 - Cognition

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 43327,

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	2818440023354
Required	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

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
10/19	Kahneman Chapters 1, 3, 4	Chapter 1 Introduction Chapter 3 Perception Two systems; cognitive effort	6 lecture videos; Module Exam; Perusall Assignment for Kahneman Chapters 1, 3, 4; 2 labs



10/26	Kahneman Chapters 5, 7, 9	Chapter 4 Attention Emotion Cognitive Ease, Substitution	6 lecture videos; Module Exam; Perusall Assignment for Kahneman Chapters 5, 7, 9; 2 labs
11/2	Kahneman Chapters 10, 11, 12	Chapter 5 STM & WMC Law of Small Numbers; Anchoring; Availability Heuristic	6 lecture videos; Module Exam; Perusall Assignment for Kahneman Chapters 10, 11, 12; 2 labs
11/9	Kahneman Chapters 14, 15	Chapter 6 LTM: Structure Chapter 7 LTM Representative Heuristic; Tom W; Linda	6 lecture videos; Module Exam; Perusall Assignment for Kahneman Chapters 14, 15; 2 labs
11/16	Kahneman Chapters 17, 19, 20	Chapter 8 LTM Emotion Regulation Regression to the Mean; Illusions of Skill and Validity	6 lecture videos; Module Exam; Perusall Assignment for Kahneman Chapters 17, 19, 20; 2 labs
11/23	Kahneman Chapters 23, 25, 26	Loftus TED Talk Chapter 11 Language Part 1 Planning Fallacy; Bernoulli's Error; Utility; Prospect Theory	6 lecture videos; Module Exam; Perusall Assignment for Kahneman Chapters 23, 25, 26; 2 labs
11/30	Kahneman Chapters 27, 29, 34	Chapter 11 Language Part 2 Chapter 12 Problem Solving Endowment effect; Fourfold Pattern; Framing	6 lecture videos; Module Exam; Perusall Assignment for Kahneman Chapters 27, 29, 34; 2 labs

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.