

PSYC 4310 Cognitive Psychology (Fall 2024)
CRN: 24545 STEM 279 TR: 2:00 – 3:15 PM



Professor	Andrew Roberts, Ph.D.	Phone	210-784-2495
Office	STEM 237C	E-mail	Andrew.Roberts@tamusa.edu
Student Office Hours	Mon & Wed: 1:00 – 2:00 PM Thur: 11:00 – 12:00 PM By Appointment		

Course Description:

Course Catalogue: Examination of current information-processing models of human cognition. Visual & auditory information processing, memory processes, information processing, language, thinking, and problem solving.

Prerequisites: PSYC 2301 and PSYC 2388; Concurrent: PSYC 3488 (PSYC Research & Stats II)

Objectives:

1. To better students' understanding of research methodologies used to study mental activity
2. To encourage critical thinking and analysis of cognitive theories and their implications
3. To examine practical applications of cognitive principles to real-world activities

Required Course Materials:

- **Textbook:** McBride, D. M. & Cutting, J. C. (2018). *Cognitive Psychology*. Sage. ISBN: 978-1506383866
- **Handbook:** American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual* (7th ed.). Information also available here: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/>

Contact Guidelines

Email: Email will be the most effective way for us to communicate outside of lecture. Students are expected to check their email **daily** and they are expected **1) to only use their official university e-mail through Blackboard and 2) include course and section (e.g., PSYC 4310) and full name in subject line when sending emails to your professor.**

I will check his email regularly on Monday – Friday from 9 to 5. During this timeframe, I will generally respond within 24 hours. If you do not hear back from me, email again in the event your message went to my Junk email box or follow up with me during lecture/office hours.

On the weekends, I am generally not available by email, but will reply on the subsequent Monday based on the order in which the emails were received.

Important Email Communication Guidelines: Each student is responsible for following the guidelines identified below and conduct themselves in a professional manner:

- Make sure you send an email with sufficient information and it is written clearly.
- Use professional language and formatting is expected (i.e., avoid informal correspondence styles like text messaging, emojis, and/or texting slang).
- Maintain a courtesy and respectful tone throughout your discourse.

- **Note:** Any issues involving technology/excuses need to have corresponding documentation (i.e., screenshots, pictures, etc.) to help me identify the appropriate course of action.

I reserved the right to not respond to emails if your email is inappropriately written, the answer to your question is in the syllabus, I have sent out an email or Blackboard announcement with the answer, or your question is regarding your grade in the course.

Student Office Hours: During the designated office hour times, I will be present in my office for students who wish to discuss aspects relating to course work, grades, etc. Virtual meetings are potentially possible pending advanced request and confirmation from me. If you are not available during that time, request for alternative appointment time may be made, but such request are subject to my availability.

Blackboard: Blackboard will serve as the location for pertinent materials for our course (i.e., lecture slides, assignment details, handouts, etc.). If you need a course document (syllabus copy, schedule, homework assignment), you will find it there. I will upload materials and links on Blackboard.

Grading and Assignments

Color Code	Source of Points	Points (per activity/test)	Total Points Possible per Assignment Type
	Course Work		
	Attendance	-2 pts per absence	20 pts
	Critical Thinking & Reflection Write Ups	Up to 10 pts	30 pts
	Quizzes	Up to 5 pts	50 pts
	Exams	Up to 100 pts	400 pts
	Total Points for Course Work		500 pts

Grades will be posted on Blackboard where you (and only you) can access your grade in order to protect your confidentiality and identity. ***Decimal points of .5 and greater will be rounded up. Decimal points below .5 will be rounded down. For the sake of fairness, there are no exceptions to this. No additional assignments or extra credit will be possible at the end of the semester.*** Please monitor your grades and come to me ***early*** with any concerns you may have so that I can help you achieve your goals.

Grade	Percentage	Point Range
A	90-100%	450 - 500
B	80-89%	400 - 449
C	70-79%	350 - 399
D	60-69%	300 - 349
F	<60%	Less than 300 points

Assignments

Exams: There will be **four exams**. **Each exam will be worth 100 points and students will not be allowed to use their textbooks or notes during the exam.** Each exam will be comprised of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions). On exam days, students will be expected to arrive to class on time and will have the entire duration of the class period to work on their exams.

Content and question format: Exam questions can be from content discussed in the textbook, lectures, TED talks, YouTube Videos, and/or other assigned readings linked in the course. Therefore, it is imperative that you review all materials prior to taking an exam.

Quizzes: There will be **several quizzes** given this semester. These quizzes will be administered through Blackboard. Each quiz will cover concepts discussed in lecture/textbook and will be worth 4 - 5 points each. Questions can consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Students will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz within a designated testing window.

Critical Thinking & Reflection Write-Ups: There will be **three occasions** when you are asked to respond to a critical thinking prompt in Blackboard based on either a video or a research article. Each of the prompts will be in response to content discussed in a specified video/research article. Each response should be at least 1 page in length. A rubric will be provided to help you in preparing your responses. **Each response submission will be worth up to 10 points**

Attendance: In this course **attendance is worth 20 points**. Attendance can be taken at any point in time during lectures, so you should plan on being on time and staying for the duration of the lecture time. Over the course of the semester, you are permitted to miss up to 2 lectures without any penalty, but **after your 3rd absence, there will be a 2-point penalty per/absence.**

- **Note:** excused absences will not be count against your total, but to qualify as an excused absence you must **a) communicate in advance** (at least 2 hours prior to the start of class) and/or **b) provide pertinent documentation.**

Expected Classroom Conduct

Attendance: Lectures will generally provide an in-depth discussion and review about important course content. The content chosen for these lectures may be challenging and any content discussed in the lecture is subject to being potential quiz/test material. Students are strongly advised to read ahead and take notes during lecture. Any material missed due to being absent is students' responsibility to make up.

Scholarly Conduct: Disrespectful and disruptive behaviors are not conducive to learning and will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the live session immediately, and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken. During live sessions, please keep yourself on mute unless you are speaking. Please wear pants!!!

Missed Exam and Late Homework Policy

Students may make up exams/quizzes only if they have an excused absence (emergency, illness, death, etc.) and communicate in advance of said absence (at least two hours prior to start of exam period). Failure to communicate timely and provide appropriate documentation will result in all missed assignments/exams/quizzes automatically be given a grade of 0.

Note #1: Work conflicts and/or difficulty finding parking are not excused absences.

Students are responsible for contacting and coordinating their make-up with me and providing proper documentation. Non-office hour appointments are contingent upon my availability.

Note #2: Any make up work must be completed within three days of the scheduled exam period and/or when students are cleared to return to school (medical excuses).

Note #3: Under no circumstances can a student re-take a quiz and/or exam because they are not happy with the grade earned.

Course Schedule:

Tentative Schedule ** Note:** I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus if necessary. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in class and/or via email.

Week	Day	Date	Lecture	
1	Tuesday	Aug 27	Syllabus / Chapter 1: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
1	Thursday	Aug 29	Chapter 1: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
2	Tuesday	Sept 3	Chapter 2: Cognitive Neuroscience	
2	Thursday	Sept 5	Chapter 2: Cognitive Neuroscience	
3	Tuesday	Sept 10	Chapter 3: Perception	
3	Thursday	Sept 12	Chapter 3: Perception	Critical Thinking & Reflection #1 Due
4	Tuesday	Sept 17	Exam 1: Ch 1, 2, & 3	
4	Thursday	Sept 19	Chapter 4: Attention	
5	Tuesday	Sept 24	Chapter 4: Attention	
5	Thursday	Sept 26	Chapter 4: Attention	
6	Tuesday	Oct 1	Chapter 5: Memory Structures & Processes	
6	Thursday	Oct 3	Chapter 5: Memory Structures & Processes	
7	Tuesday	Oct 8	Chapter 6: Long-term Memory: Influences on Retrieval	
7	Thursday	Oct 10	Chapter 6: Long-term Memory: Influences on Retrieval	
8	Tuesday	Oct 15	Chapter 6: Long-term Memory: Influences on Retrieval	
8	Thursday	Oct 17	Exam 2: Ch 4, 5, & 6	
9	Tuesday	Oct 22	Chapter 7: Memory Errors	
9	Thursday	Oct 24	Chapter 7: Memory Errors	
10	Tuesday	Oct 29	Chapter 8: Imagery	
10	Thursday	Oct 31	Chapter 8: Imagery	
11	Tuesday	Nov 5	Chapter 12: Reasoning & Decision Making	Critical Thinking & Reflection #2 Due
11	Thursday	Nov 7	Chapter 12: Reasoning & Decision Making	
12	Tuesday	Nov 12	Exam 3: Ch 7, 8, & 12	
12	Thursday	Nov 14	Chapter 9: Language	
13	Tuesday	Nov 19	Chapter 9: Language	

13	Thursday	Nov 21	Chapter 10: Concepts & Knowledge	Critical Thinking & Reflection #3 Due
14	Tuesday	Nov 26	Chapter 10: Concepts & Knowledge	
14	Wednesday	Nov 27	NO CLASSES (STUDY DAY)	
14	Thursday	Nov 28	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	
15	Tuesday	Dec 3	Chapter 11: Problem Solving	
15	Thursday	Dec 5	Chapter 11: Problem Solving	
15	Friday	Dec 6	Study Day (No Classes Meet)	
	TBD	TBD	FINAL EXAM (Exam 4: Ch 9, 10, & 11) TBD	

Policies and Procedures:

Academic Dishonesty is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to –Plagiarism-Cheating-Lying-Bribery

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University - San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University - San Antonio Code of Conduct. Texas A&M University - San Antonio faculty have the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary and are **obliged to and will report** any form of academic dishonesty. For more information on the process of reported academic misconduct, please refer to <http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/StudentRightsAndResponsibilities/Academic-Misconduct/index.html>

Academic Dishonesty falls under Acts of Dishonesty in the Student Handbook's Code of Conduct. University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation. All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamus.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have a lot of requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Tuesday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person, Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under A&M System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to

Speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their University email for any updates or official University notifications.
6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

The complete **academic calendar** is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/provost/academic-calendar.html>