

PSYC 4310 Cognitive Psychology (Spring 2024)
CRN: 24545 STEM 173 TR: 2:00 – 3:15 PM



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Student Office Hours Mon, Wed, Thurs: 12:30 – 1:30 PM
Tues: 9:30 – 10:30 AM

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 lecture, 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!!!

Inclusion and Diversity: My goal is to create a safe, supportive, and positive classroom environment, especially in an online format. Please let me know if something happens in class that makes you uncomfortable, and I will do my best to make accommodations.

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 provide 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	Jan 16	Syllabus / Chapter 1: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
1	Thursday	Jan 18	Chapter 1: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
2	Tuesday	Jan 23	Chapter 2: Cognitive Neuroscience	
2	Thursday	Jan 25	Chapter 2: Cognitive Neuroscience	
3	Tuesday	Jan 30	Chapter 3: Perception	
3	Thursday	Feb 1	Chapter 3: Perception	
4	Tuesday	Feb 6	Exam 1: Ch 1, 2, & 3	
4	Thursday	Feb 8	Chapter 4: Attention	
5	Tuesday	Feb 13	Chapter 4: Attention	
5	Thursday	Feb 15	Chapter 4: Attention	
6	Tuesday	Feb 20	Chapter 5: Memory Structures & Processes	
6	Thursday	Feb 22	Chapter 5: Memory Structures & Processes	
7	Tuesday	Feb 27	Chapter 6: Long-term Memory: Influences on Retrieval	
7	Thursday	Feb 29	Chapter 6: Long-term Memory: Influences on Retrieval	
8	Tuesday	Mar 5	Chapter 6: Long-term Memory: Influences on Retrieval	
8	Thursday	Mar 7	Exam 2: Ch 4, 5, & 6	
9	Tuesday	Mar 12	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)	
9	Thursday	Mar 14	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)	
10	Tuesday	Mar 19	Chapter 7: Memory Errors	
10	Thursday	Mar 21	Chapter 7: Memory Errors	
11	Tuesday	Mar 26	Chapter 8: Imagery	
11	Thursday	Mar 28	Chapter 8: Imagery	
12	Tuesday	Apr 2	Chapter 12: Reasoning & Decision Making	
12	Thursday	Apr 4	Chapter 12: Reasoning & Decision Making	
13	Tuesday	Apr 9	Exam 3: Ch 7, 8, & 12	

13	Thursday	Apr 11	Chapter 9: Language	
14	Tuesday	Apr 16	Chapter 9: Language	
14	Thursday	Apr 18	Chapter 10: Concepts & Knowledge	
15	Tuesday	Apr 23	Chapter 11: Problem Solving	
15	Thursday	Apr 25	Chapter 11: Problem Solving	
16	Monday	Apr 29	Last Day of Classes	
16	Tuesday	Apr 30	Study Day (No Classes Meet)	
	TBD	TBD	FINAL EXAM (Exam 4: Ch 9, 10, & 11)	TBD

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health 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 are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

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.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. 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 <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

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. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and 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.va@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 the 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.

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 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, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. 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 providing 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's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct 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 Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are

encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

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 administrative rule 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, 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 administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
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 an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

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.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Use of A.I. Policy:

No Use of Generative A.I. Permitted

PSYC 2385 – Writing in Psychology assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio’s standards of academic integrity.

Important Dates:

January 16	First day of class
March 11-17	Spring Break – No classes
March 29	Study Day – No classes
April 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
April 20	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
April 29	Last day of classes
April 30	Study Day – No classes
May 1-7	Final exams

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