



EASTERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS
Cognitive Psychology
Lecture: PSY 317: 51191
Summer 2017
GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This course provides an overview of human mental processes. Topics that will be covered in this course include memory, language, decision making, reasoning, and problem solving. The purpose of this course is to provide students with general knowledge on cognitive psychology, and help students see the connection between mental processes and human behavior. Readings come from the required textbooks. Make sure you read the assigned chapters before class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Explain major concepts in cognitive psychology and cite findings and theories related to the major concepts.
- Understand the research methods used in the field of cognitive psychology.
- Apply the concepts of cognitive psychology to self-learning and critical thinking.
- Recognize and value diversity between concepts and cultures.
- Recognize that psychological knowledge, like all scientific knowledge, evolves rapidly as new discoveries are made.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This is a fully online class with all instructional materials and activities delivered through Blackboard, and/or other internet-based media. Much of the course is built around team work and discussion. Therefore, please maintain a courteous and professional manner at all times, both

in your discussion posts and e-mails. There is also an online meeting room that you could use to meet with your course instructor, facilitators, or your classmates.

HOMEWORK HELP

The EKU GURUS are carefully selected upperclassmen that offer homework assistance in over 25 different subjects. Skype or schedule an appointment with a GURU for your tutoring needs. Visit us at one of our three locations: Tech Commons, SSB lab, and the Library lab.

Contact information:

Phone: (859) 622.2496

Available hours phone/social media

7:30am-10:00pm

SSB Computer lab 1st floor

Library lab (next to Java City)

Tech Commons (downstairs Powell)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EKU POLICIES (PLAGIARISM & ABSENCE)

For issues concerning plagiarism, please consult ECU's [Academic Integrity Policies](#). Students found guilty of an academic honesty violation will receive a 0 on the assignment in question. Violations could also result in a 0 in the course and/or a referral to the Academic Council. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, and co-responsibility (i.e., "anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty shall be considered as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance").

For excused absence, please consult ECU's [Absence Policies](#).

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking a technology assisted class is the lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy, I mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; however, students who are required to use Blackboard are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer.

Although you may use a mobile device to access materials on Blackboard, I strongly discourage you to complete any online assignment using a mobile device.

Please make sure that you have a reliable working computer and internet connection when completing any assignment online. **Missed online assignments, quizzes, or exams due to technical difficulties cannot be made up.**

If you have an emergency, please send me an e-mail and I will deal with the situation on a case-by-case basis.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

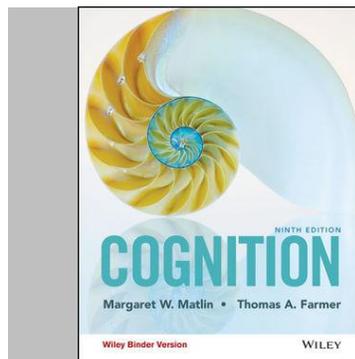
The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you are registered with the EKU Center for Student Accessibility (CSA), please obtain your accommodation letters from the CSA, present them to the course instructor, and discuss the accommodations needed. If you believe you need an accommodation and are not registered with the CSA, please contact the office in 361 Whitlock Building by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

A student with a “disability” may be an individual with a physical or psychological impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, to include, but not limited to: seeing, hearing, communicating, interacting with others, learning, thinking, concentrating, sitting, standing, lifting, performing manual tasks, working. Additionally, pregnancy accompanied by a medical condition(s), which causes a similar substantial limitation, may also be considered under the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA).

COURSE PREREQUISITES

PSY 309 or Instructor Permission

TEXTBOOK



Cognition (9th Edition)

Margaret W. Matlin

Thomas A. Farmer

Wiley (2015)

ISBN: 978-1-119-17774-6

You may consider purchasing the 8th edition at a lower price but you will be using the older edition at your own risk.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a fully online class so there is not a traditional attendance policy. However, you are required to complete quizzes, assignments, papers, and exams by the due dates set in Blackboard.

STANDARDS FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments. If you would like free help with your writing, you may visit the Noel Studio, in the Library: The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is a free resource for the EKU community, including graduate and undergraduate students. At the Noel Studio, a trained consultant will work you or your small group on any piece of written or oral communication, at any stage in the process from brainstorming to finished product. Consultants can also help you develop effective research strategies. For more information, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.eku.edu/> or call 859-622-6229.

COURSE DETAILS

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via E-MAIL. Please do not utilize the message function in Blackboard.

QUIZZES

There are many quizzes in this course, including module quizzes, and lab quizzes. Each quiz will have between five and 20 questions and they need to be completed throughout the week.

Please be aware of the deadlines and settings for the various quizzes.

EXAMS

There are only two exams in this course—a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will be hosted online.

DISCUSSION POSTS

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

- Basic requirements:
 1. Your original post should be least 200 words, with clear a clear thesis statement and supporting points, unless specifically instructed to follow another format.
 2. Besides making your own post, you are required to respond to at least two other classmates' posts. When you reply to your classmates' posts, never just say that you like the post or dislike the post but rather explain WHAT you like about a post and WHY you like it.
- Each discussion post is worth 10 points. Please see the rubric below for my grading criteria:

Criteria	Points
Thesis	2
Two supporting points	4
Thoughtful responses to two other posts	2
Originality and creativity of the post	2
Total	10

Sample Discussion Post:

I strongly believe that good discussion posts in an online class promotes critical thinking and student engagement. [2 points--thesis]

One of the problems with online courses is that students often do not have the opportunity to interact with each other. More often than not, students in an online course tend to be "lone wolves" that go through the course on their own without learning much about their classmates or other people's opinions. The presence of discussions facilitate students' interaction even in a virtual environment (Poole, 2000). [2 points--supporting point 1]

While discussion posts are important, they do not promote critical thinking and engagement if they are superficial and not well articulated. The purpose of a discussion post is to argue one's opinion essentially. It should therefore have an argumentative form, with a thesis statement and supporting points. A well-written and well formatted argument with credible sources has the power to change the reader's perspectives (Murphy, Long, Holleran & Esterly, 2003). [2 points--supporting point 2]

It is thus clear that well written online discussion posts are effective means of stimulating inter-personal interaction and peer persuasion. It is my hope that meaningful interaction among students would naturally promote student engagement in this course. [2 points--original concluding thoughts]

Word count without references: 186

References:

Murphy, P. K., Long, J. F., Holleran, T. A., & Esterly, E. (2003). Persuasion online or on paper: a new take on an old issue. *Learning and Instruction*, 13(5), 511-532.

Poole, D. M. (2000). Student participation in a discussion-oriented online course: A case study. *Journal of research on computing in education*, 33(2), 162-177.

**Two additional points are awarded for your reply to your classmates' posts.*

FINAL PAPER

You would need to complete a final paper by arguing for one of the cognitive theories that is currently being debated. The list of possible topics will be given during the first week of class.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

This requirement does not apply to this particular summer course

ADD/DROP/WITHDRAW DEADLINES

Please consult the [university's academic calendar](#).

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weight
Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Final Paper	20%
Discussion Posts	25%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Range
A	90-100
B	80-89.99
C	70-79.99
D	60-69.99
F	Below 60

Please note that your final grade will not be rounded up

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics	Assigned Reading
06/19	Introduction	Chapter 1
06/26	Cognitive Neuroscience	Chapter 3
07/03	Working Memory and Long Term Memory	Chapter 4 & Chapter 5
07/10	Metacognition and Imagery	Chapter 6 & Chapter 7
07/17	Midterm Exam	
07/24	Reading and Language	Chapter 9 & Chapter 2
07/31	Problem Solving, Reasoning, and Decision Making	Chapter 11 & Chapter 12
08/07	Final Exam & Final Paper	