

PSY371H5 S – Higher Cognitive Processes

Friday 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Room IB 335 (Instructional Building)

Contact Information

Course Instructor:

Dr. Christine Burton
email: christine.burton@utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistant:

Lauryn Conway
lauryn.conway@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours:

Fridays 10am-12pm, or by appointment
DH4011

Office Hours: The TAs will hold office hours after the distribution of graded tests and papers. Dates and times will be posted on blackboard.

Course Description

This course covers selected topics pertaining to higher cognitive processes including expertise, consciousness, creativity, and human and artificial intelligence.

Prerequisite: **PSY201H5/equivalent, 270H5**

If you have questions about missing prerequisites, the waiting list or other enrollment issues, please contact the Academic Counsellor for further information at jodie.stewart@utoronto.ca

Reading Material

All required readings will be available on our course webpage on blackboard (<http://portal.utoronto.ca>). Make sure you check back regularly for the most recently updated material.

Course Evaluation

The evaluation for this course consists of a **written component** and a **participation component**.

Written component			Participation component	
Term test 1 (2 hours)	February 9	25%	Science on trial presentation	10%
Paper	March 27	30%	Jury participation	10%
Term test 2 (2 hours)	April 4	25%		

Science on trial: Each week we will discuss controversial theories in the literature. In order to facilitate this discussion, we will put a theory “on trial”. A small group of students will act as the “defence” for the theory and another small group of students will act as the “prosecution”. The defence team and the prosecution team will each try to convince the jury (the rest of the class) that their understanding of the theory is best. To do this, each team will give a short “opening argument” presentation (no more than 10 minutes) to lay out their most important arguments. These presentations should be based on the week’s readings that will be posted online. The jury will then have the opportunity to direct questions to either team. At the end of the class the jury will reach a verdict based on the presentations and the answers to the jury’s questions. Grades will not be based on the jury’s verdict.

Because we have a large class, each week some of you will be called for **Jury Duty**. If you have jury duty, you will be responsible for coming to class prepared with some questions to ask the defence and/or prosecution teams to begin the

discussion. I will randomly assign students to jury duty at the beginning of term so you will know in advance when it is your turn. Of course, anyone is welcome to participate in the discussions whether they have jury duty or not. Each of you will be expected to participate in one presentation this term (either for the defence or the prosecution). The list of theories “on trial” are posted on Blackboard, where you can also sign up for your group. In addition, I will randomly assign each student to jury duty for one week. Your grade for the presentation will be based on the clarity of your group presentation and how well-prepared you are for class. You will be expected to complete the assigned readings and use those to make a logical argument for your case. Although you certainly can’t be expected to be an expert in the field, you will be expected to form an opinion based on the readings and argue a case for it. The grade for the jury participation will be based on how frequently you ask questions to the presentation teams. These questions should provide at least some evidence that you did the readings. This assignment only works if you all come to class prepared with a question. If the jury doesn’t have any questions, I will have some prepared that I will direct both to the presentation teams **and** the jury. In no case will a grade be based on “right” or “wrong” answers; the grades will be based on whether your comments reflect that you thought about the readings.

Term tests: The term tests will cover issues relating to lecture material as well as those topics discussed in class regarding the required readings.

Paper: Students will be expected to write a paper evaluating a topic of their choice from the course material. You will be expected to make use of the course material and in-class discussions to summarize the current state of the chosen topic and discuss your opinion for future directions. You should put particular emphasis on your opinion/evaluation of the literature, while making sure to acknowledge other opinions and research. The paper will be graded on both the quality of your ideas and the clarity of your writing. This paper should not exceed 10 pages double-spaced.

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://portal.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Blackboard; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Blackboard. If you have any general questions regarding Blackboard, please visit the following help site:

<http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students.htm>

Green Policy

This is a paperless course! All documents and assignments will be in electronic format only. This includes the written assignments you are to complete for class. Make sure you submit your assignments before class. All grading will be done electronically. Please avoid printing excessively when you can and try to print double-sided whenever possible!

Email

The main source of communication in the course will be email. Due to incompatibility issues with the Blackboard portal and some email servers (e.g. hotmail, etc.) you must send all email from your utoronto.ca account. Please include the course number (PSY371) in the subject line in all your emails about the course. I will do my best to answer your emails, but if I think your questions can be better answered in person, I will suggest that we set up an appointment. The same policy applies to emails sent to the TA.

Requests for Re-grading

Any requests to re-grade tests or experiment reports should be made in a timely fashion. Requests to re-grade term tests must be made before the next scheduled test or exam. Requests to re-grade experiment reports must be made within 1 week of the return of the graded report. **Please direct all requests for re-grading directly to the TA who marked your work.** If you are dissatisfied after meeting with the TA you may submit your work to the instructor. Keep in mind that if you submit your work to be re-graded, your grade could go up or down. This policy applies to work submitted to the instructor or the TAs.

Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at:

<https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

Students are to submit original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) to the Psychology Academic Counselor or drop it in the drop box located outside the Psychology office, Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students have up-to one week from the date of the missed test to submit request. Late submissions will NOT be considered without a letter of explanation specifying and documenting the reasons for the lateness. .

Medical certificates or physician's notes must be completed by the Physician and MUST include the statement "This Student [name] was unable to write the test on [date(s)] for medical reasons". This documentation must show that the physician was consulted within one the day of the missed term test. A statement merely acknowledging a report of illness made by the student to the physician is NOT acceptable. For further information on this procedure please see:

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/psychology/undergraduate-studies/missed-testslate-submissions>

If you missed your test/assignment deadline for a reason connected to your registered disability, please be advised that the department will accept documentation supplied by the UTM AccessAbility Resource Centre.

IMPORTANT: The Department of Psychology verifies the authenticity of medical certificates by contacting medical offices. Students are NOT to make any changes or alteration to completed medical certificates. Students who submit forged or altered documentation are subject to severe academic penalties.

If your request is approved by the department, a make-up test will be offered. You will receive an email when a make-up date has been arranged. The department will try to give 2-3 days notice of make-up date, however this is sometimes not possible. **Be prepared for the make-up.**

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request directly to the Instructor for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) must be submitted to the Psychology Academic Counselor or dropped off in the drop box located outside the Psychology office Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students are expected to submit requests to the Department before the last day of the term, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent them from doing so. In the event of an illness, medical certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that student was ill on the due date of the assignment (for a one-day extension). For a longer extension, documentation must specify the full duration during which academic work could not be carried out.

For extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions> .

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

AccessAbility Services

Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.
<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the Academic Integrity website: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students>.

- Common trends in academic offences:
- Plagiarizing/concocted references
- Collaboration/unauthorized assistance
- Purchasing work
- Recycling work - "double-dipping"
- Resubmitting of altered work for re-grading
- Electronic devices (cell phones) or any unauthorized aids
- Altering medical certificates and UofT documents

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known." All students must refer to this website to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism. <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth 25% or more in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Course Outline

Date	Topic
January 5	Introduction and History of the study of intelligence
January 12	Intelligence testing and theories of intelligence
January 19	Individual differences in intelligence
January 26	Expertise and talent
February 2	Cognitive training
February 9	Term test
February 16	Decision making
February 23	Reading week – No class
March 2	Consciousness
March 9	Artificial intelligence
March 16	Embodied cognition
March 23	Cognition in older adults
March 30	Good Friday – No class
Wednesday, April 4	Term Test 2