

PSY270H5F – Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

Course Delivery

This is an online, asynchronous course. Lectures will be given as a series of short videos totaling 2-3 hours/ week posted on Quercus. Students will have the opportunity for a synchronous online office hours and tutorials via Zoom to ask questions and clarifications about lecture content. Discussion boards will also be available to ask questions if students are unable to attend live office hours. Students are expected to complete online homework via TopHat each week.

Tests and the final exam will be time-limited and administered as Quercus quizzes.

Learn Anywhere Guide for Students

<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/students/quercus/learn-anywhere>

Contact Information

Course Instructor:

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Teaching Assistants:

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Office hours: Mondays from 2-3pm via Zoom

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

Course Description

Cognitive psychology is the study of the building blocks of how we think and reason. We need to be able to pay attention, create mental representations, remember information, manipulate knowledge and express thoughts. Thus, in this course we will discuss the fundamentals of attention, memory, problem solving, decision making and language.

Course Objective

My goal for this course is to familiarize you with the leading theories in cognitive psychology so that you are able to discuss the fundamental topics in the field, create hypotheses using this knowledge and apply this to everyday situations. Assigned textbook readings explain important concepts and will help lay a foundation on which you can build your knowledge. In lectures we will elaborate on the material in the text and highlight connections between the various topics, experiments that have been conducted in the area, and real-life situations.

Experimentation is an important part of cognitive psychology so I have included assignments specifically designed to let you participate in cognitive psychology research and use your new knowledge.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the major terms, concepts and theories in cognitive psychology
- Understand how unconscious cognitive processes influence our everyday behaviour
- Understand how the historical development of cognitive psychology has shaped the questions researchers in cognitive psychology ask today

- Explain how empirical findings can support or refute psychological theories
- Identify key variables in empirical research and infer evidence-based conclusions
- Analyse and critique published research in cognitive psychology
- Communicate scientific data in the form of written reports

Reading Material

Cognitive Psychology by Elan Barenholtz. This textbook is only available through the Top Hat platform. This allows significant savings for students and integration of all course materials into one platform.

In addition to the Top Hat textbook, we will be using Top Hat for participation this term. You will receive an email invitation to join our class on Top Hat. You can either follow the link provided in the email or register yourself at www.tophat.com by entering our unique class Join Code available on Quercus. You only need one account for all your courses that are using TopHat, so if you already have an account for another class, you can follow the registration instructions for our class in the email, but you won't need to set up another account.

Course Evaluation

Midterm test	May 21 or 22 120 minutes	28%	Lab reports	May 26 and June 11	2 @ 15% each = 30%
Final Exam	TBA 120 minutes	32%	Top Hat lab participation	Ongoing	5%
Top Hat Homework	Ongoing	5%			

Test and Exam

The midterm test and final exam will be administered as Quercus quizzes. You will have 2 hours to complete the term test and exam but they will be open for 2-day windows so you can select when you would like to write it. The exam will held during the exam period, as set by the registrar. The test and exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam is cumulative and will cover all material from the course.

Assignments

I intend the assignments to give you an opportunity to participate in both classic and recent cognitive psychology experiments and encourage you to use the information in the course to think beyond the course material. You will participate in replications of classic cognitive psychology experiments using Top Hat after listening to the posted lecture material. The point of the assignments is to give you hands on experience both participating in experiments and acting as an experimenter. I will perform simple statistical analyses based on the class data and provide it to you after everyone has participated. You will then be expected to write lab reports based on the class data from 2 of the experiments we will complete throughout the term. Detailed instructions about the lab reports are available under the "assignments" tab on blackboard.

Normally, students will required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

You may opt out of using Turnitin.com to submit your course work, in which case alternative arrangements can be made to support your written work (e.g. providing research notes, etc.). If you intend to opt out of Turnitin.com, please **inform your Instructor by Tuesday, May 12** so alternate arrangements can be made.

Lab report tutorials: The TAs will hold a series of optional tutorials via Zoom about how to write a good lab report. The tutorials will cover a step-by-step guide about how to write a good lab report. The dates and times of the sessions will be posted online where you will be able to sign up for a session.

Top Hat Participation

There are 2 types of Top Hat participation in this course.

The first is related to the experiment participation described above that is related to the lab report assignments. There are 6 experiments to participate in throughout the term. In order to receive the full 5% participation, you will need to participate in at 5 of 6 experiments.

The second participation component requires you to answer “homework” questions posted on Top Hat after each lecture. Research has demonstrated that a good way to learn material is to be tested on it. With that goal in mind, these homework questions are based on lecture and textbook material and will help as practice questions for the test and exam. Your score will be calculated as the total number of correct answers out of all questions multiplied by 5% (for example, if you get 80 questions correct out of 100 questions asked throughout the term, your score will be 4 points added to your final grade). You must complete the homework questions before the formal assessments (midterm test and exam).

Course Webpage

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

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Canvas; 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 Canvas. If you have any general questions regarding Canvas, please visit the following help site:

<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/faculty/canvas>

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES ****PLEASE READ****

Email

The main source of communication in the course will be email. You can also send an email directly to me from your Inbox in Quercus/Canvas. Please include the course number (PSY270) in the subject line in all your emails about the course.

Make sure you check your notification settings in Quercus to ensure you will receive email and announcement notifications

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>.

Important note: Once the test/exam is available online and you're unable to write or have an approved request to miss, **DO NOT** at any point attempt to access the test/exam. If you at any time access the test/exam, you will **NOT** be able to submit a special consideration and/or your request will be refused.

Supporting Documentation

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

If your request is approved by the department, the weight of the missed test will be redistributed to any remaining tests/exam.

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.

Supporting Documentation

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

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 weekends 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.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. **Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.**
2. **Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.**
3. **Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.**
4. **Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."**
5. **Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.**

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.

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

Course outline follows on the next page...

Course Outline

Lecture number	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction, themes and research methods	Chapters 1 and 2
2	Perception	Chapter 4
3	Attention and short-term storage	Chapters 5 and 6
4	Attention and short-term storage	Chapters 5 and 6
5	Long-term memory: Systems and processes	Chapter 7
May 21 or 22	Midterm test	
6	Long-term memory in practice	Chapter 8
7	Knowledge I	Chapter 9
8	Knowledge II	Chapter 9
9	Language	Chapters 10
10	Decision making	Chapter 12

*Please note that the content of chapter 3 (The Brain) will not explicitly be covered, however, we will refer to some brain areas and functions throughout the course so it is your responsibility to ensure you are familiar with the basic ideas covered in the chapter.