

PSY270H5F – Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00pm in Room DV 2072 (Davis Building)

Contact Information

Course Instructor:

Dr. Christine Burton

Email: christine.burton@utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistants:

Mathieu Saindon: mr.saindon@mail.utoronto.ca

Poh Wee Koh: pohwee.koh@gmail.com

Office hour:

Tuesdays 1-2pm or by appointment, DH4011

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

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.

Reading Material

Textbook: McBride, D. & Cutting, J. (2016). *Cognitive Psychology: Theory, Process and Methodology*. Sage Publishing.

Online material: *TopHat*.

You will receive an email invitation to join our TopHat class account. This email will guide you through how to purchase and account and sign up for our class. You can also register at www.tophat.com using the Join Code posted on Blackboard. A 4-month account is \$24 and a full year is \$36. 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 have to pay again.

Course Evaluation

Unit 1 test	October 6 120 minutes	20%	“Take home” quizzes	Each week except test weeks	6%
Unit 2 test	November 3 120 minutes	20%	Lab reports	October 22 and December 1	2 @ 10% each = 20%
Final Exam	TBA	30%	In class lab participation	See class schedule below	4%

Take home quizzes

Because learning and memory tends to improve when you are tested (the testing effect, as you will learn), there will be a short quiz for you to complete about the week’s material at home. The quizzes will be available for you to complete using TopHat. You will have 1 week after the lecture to complete each quiz, which will contain 5-10 questions. For each item, you will get half a mark for completing it and half a mark for accuracy (so you will get 50% just for answering each question). At the end of the term, I will add your scores from all the quizzes and multiply by 6% for your total mark on the quizzes.

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. During class you will participate in replications of classic cognitive psychology experiments using TopHat. The point of the assignments is to give you hands on experience both participating in experiments and acting as an experimenter. TopHat allows you to participate in psychology replications in class and send real-time data to me using your laptop or cell phone. I will perform simple statistical analyses based on the class data and present it the following class. 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.

We will complete 6 in-class experiments throughout the term. In order to receive the full 4% participation, you will need to participate in at 4 of 6 experiments. An alternate assignment is available for those students who don’t have access to a laptop or cell phone. **Please contact me during the first 2 weeks of class if you will not be using TopHat.**

Bonus activity: The TAs will hold a series of optional tutorials about how to write a good lab report. Although the tutorials are optional, you will receive 1 bonus percentage on your final grade if you attend one (or more) of these sessions. The dates and times of the sessions will be posted online where you will be able to sign up for a session.

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/content/information-students>

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 (PSY270) 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-tests/late-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, the value of the test will be redistributed to any remaining tests and final examination.

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.

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

Course Outline

	Date	Topic	Readings
Unit 1: Basic processes	Sept 8	Introduction and history of cognitive psychology	Chapter 1
	Sept 15	Cognitive neuroscience and perception	Chapters 2 and 3
	Sept 22	Attention In class experiment	Chapter 4
	Sept 29	Memory basics In class experiment	Chapter 5
	Oct 6	Unit 1 test No take home quiz	
Unit 2: Memory	Oct 13	Long-term memory: Episodic memory In class experiment	Chapter 6
	Oct 20	Long-term memory: Semantic memory In class experiment	Chapter 8 (pgs. 181-190) and 10
	Oct 27	Memory outside of the lab In class experiment	Chapter 7
	Nov 3	Unit 2 test No take home quiz	
Unit 3: Higher level processes	Nov 10	Decision making In class experiment	Chapter 12
	Nov 17	Language	Chapter 9 (pgs. 203-226)
	Nov 24	Problem solving	Chapter 11