

Cognitive Processes  
Course Number: 21:830:304  
Instructor: Frank P. Gengaro, Ph.D., MSW, M.A., LCSW  
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Office: Smith Hall 304  
Office Hours: By Appointment

**Required Text & Readings:**

Farmer, Thomas, & Matlin, Margaret, (2020) Cognition, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New Jersey

**Requirements:**

Each online class will consist of assigned chapter(s), posted materials/information (PowerPoint Slides, Audio/Video presentations, etc), other assigned readings relevant to the covered topics, and daily discussion board questions.

Grades will be based on four (4) online multiple-choice/fill-in/essay examinations, and the completion of the assigned discussion boards. The examinations are not cumulative in nature and are weighted equally. They will be based on the respective chapters, posted information/materials, and other assigned readings. Makeup examinations will only be offered if the student has a legitimate medical and/or personal excuse. There will be eleven (11) discussion boards, of which you need to answer only ten (10) of them. Furthermore, I will be dropping your lowest exam grade, as such, your final grade will be based on the average of your three highest exams, 80% of final grade; Discussion Boards, 20% of final grade (2 points for each discussion board.)

**Attendance:**

Attendance is expected and taken regularly via the discussion boards.

**Tentative Exam Dates (Subject To Change):**

Exam I – Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 6 pm, Online; Chapters 1 & 2

Exam II – Friday, January 5, 2024, 6 pm, Online; Chapters 3, 4, & 5

Exam III – Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6 pm, Online; Chapters 9, 10, & 11

**Final Exam:**

The final exam is scheduled for Friday, January 12, 2024, 6 pm, Online; Chapters 6, 8, & 13

## **Course Focus/Learning Objectives**

The primary focus of the course is to introduce students to the study of cognitive psychology, inclusive of, but not limited to the mental processes associated with the acquisition, storage, and retrieval of information, language development, critical thinking, problem-solving, perception, attention, and memory. Additionally, they will expand their knowledge of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and trends in cognitive psychology. Students will also develop the ability to interpret and critically evaluate the results of psychological research. Experimental designs, examining research questions, research variables, and ethical considerations will also be discussed.

## **Course Topics/Chapters:**

The following is a more comprehensive list of the topics scheduled to be covered/discussed.

- General Introduction to the Study of Cognition
- Historical Overview of Cognitive Psychology
- Factors Contributing to the Study of Cognitive Psychology
- Acquisition, Storage, & Retrieval
- Perception
- Attention
- Information Processing Model
- Human Memory Systems: Sensory Memory, Short-Term Memory, Long-Term Memory, Levels of Processing, Semantic vs Episodic Memory, Dual Coding, Implicit vs Explicit Memory, Encoding Specificity, Mood and Memory, etc.
- Theories of Forgetting
- Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development
- Language Acquisition
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving/Decision-Making
- Creativity

- Chapter 1 - An Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
- Chapter 2 - Visual and Auditory Recognition
- Chapter 3 - Attention and Consciousness
- Chapter 4 - Working Memory
- Chapter 5 - Long-Term Memory
- Chapter 6 - Memory Strategies and Metacognition
- Chapter 7 - Mental Imagery and Cognitive Maps
- Chapter 8 - General Knowledge
- Chapter 9 - Language I: Introduction to Language and Language Comprehension
- Chapter 10 - Language II: Language Production and Bilingualism
- Chapter 11 - Problem Solving and Creativity
- Chapter 12 - Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making
- Chapter 13 - Cognitive Development Throughout the Lifespan

### **Academic Integrity:**

The Department of Psychology at Rutgers University-Newark has established specific guidelines for handling all potential incidents of Academic Integrity violations. Since Academic Integrity is a core component of the guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association, all students will be expected to follow both the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy and the American Psychological Association ethical code, specifically, APA's Ethical Code 8.11 Plagiarism: "Psychologists do not present portions of another's work or data as their own, even if the other work or data source is cited occasionally". As such, every potential violation of the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy or APA's Ethical Principles may be reported and handled by either an Academic Integrity Facilitator or the Instructor. Failure to abide by the department's policies can result in the student becoming ineligible to pursue a major in psychology at Rutgers University-Newark. Students shall adhere to the policies as established by the Office of Academic Services. <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/oas/ai>

### **Disability Services:**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

### **Information about Learning Resources**

Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services): <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/learning-center>  
Writing Center: (writing support): <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/writing-center>

**Add/Drop & W Periods:** Please be sure to check the deadlines to add/drop/withdraw from classes. <https://winter.newark.rutgers.edu/dates-events/session-deadlines>