

Instructor: Kristen Medeiros
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Office: Aquia 337 **Phone:** (703) 993-5212
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00a – 1:00p

Course Description: This course is an in-depth overview of important topics in cognitive psychology, including memory, attention, perception, problem solving, reasoning, and psycholinguistics.

Recommended Text: Goldstein E. B. (2010). *Cognitive Psychology* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Technology: You should have regular access to your masonlive email and the MyMason/Blackboard website (where all rubrics will be posted and most assignments will be submitted).

Course Assignments

(30%) **Literature Review**

A five-page (maximum) paper on a Cognitive Psychology topic of your choice will be written throughout the semester. Assignments are due on the day posted by 3:00pm and should be submitted via MyMason/Blackboard.

Topic, 1 page outline of areas of interest, and reference list	2%	Sep 13
Introduction	5%	Sep 27
Method Section	3%	Oct 11
Results, Discussion, Table	5%	Oct 25
Rough Draft	5%	Nov 8
Peer Review	5%	Nov 27
Final Paper	5%	Dec 6

(30%) **Exams**

Three multiple choice exams will be given throughout the semester (Sep 25, Oct 23, Nov 15). Each exam will have 20 questions and be worth 10% of your final grade. Extra credit questions will be taken from the questions generated by students. You will need a scantron and pencil on exam days.

(20%) **Homework / In Class Activities**

Ten assignments will be given throughout the semester either as homework (due at the beginning of class) or in-class activities. These are meant to illustrate topics we discuss in class through hands-on experiences. Each will be worth 2%.

(10%) **Presentation**

At the end of the semester, you will give a five-minute presentation (format of your choice) of your research project.

(5%) **Class Discussion**

You will lead a five-minute discussion (format of your choice) on one of the five class discussion days. This is not a summary or overview of material, but an extension or application of what we have learned.

(5%) **Discussion Participation**

Your participation and contribution on the five discussion days will be recorded (1% each).

Bonus Points

Attendance

If you don't miss more than three classes, you'll get an extra 1% added to your final grade.

Cumulative Final

You may choose to take a cumulative multiple choice final to potentially replace your lowest exam grade.

Extra Credit Assignments

Each topic will have an extra credit assignment associated with it, due on the day of the exam where that material will be covered. To receive the full 1% for the assignment, you must fulfill all the points denoted on the rubric sheet.

***** Considering the amount of extra credit and bonus points you are afforded, late assignments will not be graded and there will be no make-up exams. *****

Grade Breakdown

100 +	A+	77-79	C+
95 +	A	74-76	C
90-94	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	60-69	D
84-86	B	<60	F
80-83	B-		

Miscellaneous

Students are expected to behave at all times in a manner that is consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code: submitted work should be original, and references to sources should be properly cited. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student's and to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of an honor code violation. Please see details at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>.

Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

If you are a student with disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 709-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Last day to add: September 4

Last day to drop: September 28

Course Schedule with Due Dates

Date			Topic	Homework	Research Paper	Extra Credit	
T	Aug	28	Greetings/Introduction				
R	Aug	30	Research Day	HW #1: Abstract			
T	Sep	4	Neuronal Basics				
R	Sep	6	Cognitive Neuroscience				
T	Sep	11	Brain Day	HW #2: Brain Characters			
R	Sep	13	Perception	HW #3: Gestalt (in class)	Topic, Outline, Ref. List		
T	Sep	18	Attention	HW #4: Attention			
R	Sep	20	Class Discussion	HW #5: Exam Questions 1			
T	Sep	25	Exam 1			1, 2, 3, 4	
R	Sep	27	STM + WM		Introduction		
T	Oct	2	LTM				
R	Oct	4	Everyday Memory				
T	Oct	9	No Class – Monday classes meet today				
R	Oct	11	Memory Day/Discussion	HW #6: Memory	Method Section		
T	Oct	16	Knowledge				
R	Oct	18	Class Discussion	HW #7: Exam Questions 2			
T	Oct	23	Exam 2			5, 6, 7, 8	
R	Oct	25	Imagery		Results, Discussion, Table		
T	Oct	30	Language				
R	Nov	1	Class Discussion				
T	Nov	6	Problem Solving	HW #8: Problem Solving (in class)			
R	Nov	8	Reasoning/Decisions		Rough Draft		
T	Nov	13	Class Discussion	HW #9: Exam Questions 3			
R	Nov	15	Exam 3			9, 10, 11, 12	
T	Nov	20	No Class Tuesday or Thursday. Thanksgiving Break. Enjoy!				
R	Nov	22					
T	Nov	27	Peer Review Day		Peer Review		
R	Nov	29	Lit Review Presentations	HW #10: Feedback			
T	Dec	4	Lit Review Presentations	HW #11 (bonus) Feedback			
R	Dec	6	Lit Review Presentations	HW #12 (bonus): Feedback	Final Research Paper		
R	Dec	13	Optional Final Exam 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm				13, 14