

PSY 317-007: Cognitive Psychology
Fall 2012
Tuesday and Thursdays 10:30-11:45 am
Enterprise Hall Rm 178

Instructor: Carryl L. Baldwin, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Tuesdays: 1:30-2:30 p.m., Wednesday 10:50-11:50 am and by appointment

email: cbaldwi4@gmu.edu

Main Text: Kahneman, D. (2011). *Thinking, fast and slow* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Additional Recommended Readings:

Kandel, E. R. (2006). *In search of memory : the emergence of a new science of mind*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Pinker, S. (1997). *How the Mind Works*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Schacter, D. L. (2001). *The seven sins of memory : how the mind forgets and remembers*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Course Description: An in-depth overview of important topics in cognitive psychology, including memory, attention, pattern recognition, problem solving, reasoning, decision making and psycholinguistics.

- 1) Attend all scheduled classes.
- 2) Thoroughly read all assigned reading materials and come to class prepared for in-class discussions and exercises.
- 3) Complete all assignments and examinations by on assigned due dates.

Grading System:

Examinations:

Exams:	2 @ 100	= 200
Comprehensive Final:	1 @ 100	= 100

Examination total = 300ⁱ

Assignments:

Assignments, Quizzes and Daily Activities	= 100
Research Activity Projects	= 50
Group Research Activity Presentation	= 20
Cog Psych in the Media – BB posting	= 20
Literature Review Paper	= 100
Literature review topic submission	= 10

Assignment Total = 300
TOTAL POINTS = 600

Grading Policyⁱⁱ:

Grades are based on a point system as indicated above. You may determine your standing in the course at any time by adding up the number of points you have received and dividing this number by the total number of points you could have earned for those items if you had received full credit. The percentage score will be translated into a letter grade based on the following scale:

Grading Scale:

	A = 94- 100%	A- = 90- 93 %	
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86 %	B- = 80-83	
C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76 %	C- = 70-73	
D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66 %	D- = 60-63;	< 60 % = Failing

Policies and Procedures

Academic Honesty Policy:

Adherence to the GMU Honor Code is expected. Academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the honor council. Plagiarism can be defined as attempting to pass off as one's own or submitting in any way (whether intentional or otherwise) all or a portion of someone else's writings or ideas without properly crediting and citing the original author/owner. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Anyone engaging in this or other forms of academic dishonesty –copying or cheating on assignments or exams – should expect to receive a **“0” for the paper**, assignment or exam, **a grade of “F” for the course**, and to have the matter turned over to the GMU Student Honor Council, which may result in documentation of the misconduct on ones **permanent academic record** and potentially expulsion from the university. In other words, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses – don't engage in them.

Late Work and Missed Exams:

All assignments are due on the dates specified. Absence from class does not exempt students from turning assignments in on time. Assignments postmarked on or before the due date will be considered “on-time”. A strict policy of **-5% of the total points possible per calendar day** late (including weekends) will be enforced. In-class quizzes and assignments will be given and cannot be made up. Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due by **midnight** on the due date. **Don't skip class** to finish working on an assignment. Come to class and turn the paper in by midnight of that day.

Class Structure:

We will be covering roughly 1 major topic per week. Classes will typically involve a mixture of lecture and discussion over reading materials, and activities designed to strengthen learning such as group work and exercises. Lectures and discussion will generally involve information supplementary to the required readings. So, come to class prepared - having read the required material and expect to discuss topics and issues that extend beyond the readings. All material covered in the text, class lectures and discussions, and assignments and exercise may appear on exams.

Communications:

"Official Communications via GMU E-mail: 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."

Accommodations:

"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."

Brief Course Outline & Calendarⁱⁱⁱ

Note: A more detailed reading calendar will be provided the first week of class.

Last day to add: September 4

Last day to drop: September 28

Major Topics and Assigned Readings	Assignments due	Date
Introduction & Overview of course		August 28
Historical Perspective		August 30
Brain & Cognition	Asgt. 1 due	Sept. 4
Brain & Cognition		Sept. 6
System I & II		Sept. 11
		Sept. 13
		Sept. 18
		Sept. 20
		Sept. 25
	Lit topics due	Sept. 27
		Oct. 2
Covers all material to date including Pt I of Kahneman text	Exam #1	Oct. 4
No Class – Monday classes meet Tues.		October 9
		October 11
		Oct. 16
		Oct. 18
		Oct. 23
		Oct. 25
		Oct. 30
Covers Kahneman Part II	Exam # 2	Nov. 1
		Nov. 6
		Nov. 8
		Nov. 13
		Nov. 15

		Nov. 20
No class – Thanksgiving Break		Nov. 22
	Lit Review Papers due	Nov. 27
		Nov.29
Group Research Activity Presentations		Dec. 4
Group Research Activity Presentations		Dec. 6 - Last class
Comprehensive Final Exam	10:30 am – 1:15 pm	Tues., December 18
Winter Break ****		

Literature Review Paper

All **topics must be approved** by the instructor. Submit on or before 9/27/12.

- A broad range of topics will be acceptable as long as they relate to Cognitive Psychology as presented in this course and your text. Skimming the index and content pages of the text, skimming through the supplementary reading list and listening for topics covered in the introductory lectures are methods of finding suitable topics.
- **Topic Proposals:** Topic proposals must be typed and are to include a descriptive title, a proposed preliminary abstract and 2-3 related references. This means that you need to begin researching your potential topic before submitting it. (The preliminary abstract should provide enough detail to ensure that your topic proposal can be evaluated. If you are unsure of the appropriateness of your topic, please ask me about it and/or submit 1-2 alternatives for approval).

Content (due 11/27) must include include:

- A title page, 120-150 word abstract on a separate page, an 3-5 page literature review of your approved topic, and a reference page. The paper must include a minimum of 5 cited references, at least 3 of which need to be from peer-reviewed journal articles published since 2000.
- The paper must be written in current APA style and all references and citations must also be in APA style. (In journal references make sure you include all the appropriate information: author's last name and initials, year of publication, title of the article, journal name, volume & page numbers. If you are not familiar with APA style, refer to the Publication Manual published by APA and one of the many APA style guides available on the internet.)
- Use 12 point font, margins of no more than 1.25 inches, and avoid bulleted or numbered lists. Figures may be used but should only be referred to in the text and should be placed after the reference page. (They do not count toward the length requirement).

Additional Tips for the Literature Review Papers:

1. Whenever you write about an idea or piece of information from something you read, you must cite the source of that information (Authors last name, year of publication)

2. If you use the same words (directly quote) from one of your sources, you must include the citation information along with the page number and put the information in quotation marks.
Note: Failure to abide by #s 1 & 2 above is referred to as plagiarism and is grounds for a “0” for the assignment, an “F: for the class, documentation on your permanent transcript, and ultimately expulsion from the University. So, take this matter seriously. When in doubt, cite or ask your instructor for guidance.
3. Limit direct quotes to 2-3 max.
4. All cited references must be included in your Reference page.
5. In references, use authors initials (not the full first name).
6. Don’t use initials or first names in the citations within the text.
7. Don’t use personal pronouns like “I” or “we.”
8. The first time you cite a reference you need to type out all authors’ names (unless there are 6 or more authors). After the 1st time, then you can use “et al.”
9. Don’t use the term “proved” or “proves.” In psychological science, we never “prove” anything. However, we may “provide evidence for” something.
10. Your full paper should have 2-4 main subject headings with at least two sub-headings under each.

ⁱ The best three out of four exams will be counted towards your final grade. Note that this point total includes the best of the three chapter and final comprehensive exam scores. No makeup exams will be given. If you miss an exam, for any reason, the remaining three exams scores will count toward your final grade. Should you miss more than one exam, there is little chance you will earn a passing grade for the course. Please plan accordingly.

ⁱⁱ The instructor reserves the right to give additional assignments and readings.

ⁱⁱⁱ See Supplementary Readings list for additional assigned readings and coverage dates.