

**Cognitive Processes
PSYCH 316
Iowa State University
Spring 2006**

Instructor: Anne M. Cleary, Ph.D.

Class Meets: Tuesday/Thursday (11:00am-12:20pm in **Lagomarcino, Rm. W262**)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30am Wednesdays, 1-2:30pm.

Office Location: Science Hall, Rm. 375A

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TA: Moses Langley

TA Email: mlangley@iastate.edu

TA Office Phone: 515-294-6587

TA Office Hours: Tues, Thurs 12:30-1:30 in Science I, Room 223

All students are encouraged to visit with me outside of class, either during my office hours or by appointment. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that a Disability Resources staff member send a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodations that you will need. The Disability Resources Office is located in the Student Services Building, Room 1076. Their phone number is 515-294-6624. TDD 515-294-6335.

Required Text:

Ashcraft, M. H. (2005). Cognition, Prentice Hall.

Course Description:

This course will provide you with an overview of the field of cognitive psychology, covering such topics as perception, attention, memory, language, and thinking. The emphasis in this course will be on empirical research in these different areas and the theories that have come out of such research.

Course Objectives:

Students completing this course will:

1. be introduced to various scientific approaches to studying human cognition
2. become familiar with important research findings in each of the different areas of cognitive psychology (e.g., perception, attention, memory, language)
3. develop an understanding of the theories of human cognition that have resulted from the findings of researchers.
4. be able to relate aspects of what is learned in class to real life situations.

Grading:

Your grade in the course will be based on 3 in-class exams and a cumulative final exam. Exams will primarily be multiple-choice and short essay and will cover material from both the textbook and from lectures. Lectures will often follow the book closely;

however, not all of the material from the book will be covered during lectures, and lectures will often contain additional information not provided in the book. Therefore, it behooves you to come to class regularly in addition to reading the book.

Exams must be taken at their scheduled times. Except under highly unusual circumstances, you **MUST** obtain approval from me **PRIOR** to a scheduled exam in order to reschedule it. If you get approval to reschedule an exam, the rescheduled exam will be strictly essay in nature. In case of immediate, extreme emergency, notify the Dean of Students Office and they will notify all of your instructors for you. An unexcused absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam.

The points for the course will be allocated as follows:

Points available:

Exam 1	100 (25% of course grade)
Exam 2	100 (25% of course grade)
Exam 3	100 (25% of course grade)
Final Exam	100 (25% of course grade)
Total	---- 400

GRADING SCALE

Total Percentage	Final Grade
92.5 - 100%	A
90 - 92.4 %	A-
87.5 - 89.9 %	B+
82.5 - 87.4 %	B
80 - 82.4 %	B-
77.5 - 79.9 %	C+
72.5 - 77.4 %	C
70 - 72.4 %	C-
67.5 - 69.9 %	D+
62.5 - 67.4 %	D
60 - 62.4 %	D-
59.9 - 0%	F

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
January 10 th	Overview of course requirements; Overview of the history of Cognitive Psychology; Methods of studying cognition	1 2
January 17 th	Methods of studying cognition Contd. Studying the Brain	2
January 24 th	Perception & Pattern Recognition	3
January 31 st	Attention	4
February 7 th	Attention Contd. **EXAM 1** (THURSDAY, February 9th)	4
February 14 th	Short-Term, Working Memory.	5
February 21 st	STM Contd. Episodic Long-Term Memory	5-6
February 28 th	Episodic Long-Term Memory Contd.; Semantic Long-Term Memory	6-7
March 7 th	Semantic Long-Term Memory Contd.; **EXAM 2** (THURSDAY, March 9th)	
March 14 th	**NO CLASS THIS WEEK—Spring break**	
March 21 st	Interactions in Long-Term Memory	8
March 28 th	Interactions in Long-Term Memory Contd.. Language	9
April 4 th	Language Contd.	
April 11 th	Comprehension **EXAM 3** (THURSDAY, April 13th)	10
April 18 th	Decisions, Judgments, and Reasoning	11
April 25 th	Problem Solving	12
May 2 nd	***FINALS WEEK***	