

Psy 210 Cognitive Psychology

Professor Antonio Bova

Spring 2019

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:	Antonio Bova, Ph.D.
Instructor's Email	abova@fus.edu
Office location:	Main Villa, Office 8
Office Hours:	M 15:45-16:45 and by appointment
Class location	Main Villa, Classroom 4
Class meeting times	M/Th 14:30-15:45

Please contact me for any course related matters. I am open to receiving e-mails from students but I get on average 30 emails per day and therefore I ask that you put **COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY** as the subject in your email. These e-mails will be answered usually within 48 hours but not later than one week. Please use your student e-mail account when sending me a message. I have a spam filter and often non-university email (such as those generated from hotmail accounts) gets sent to my junk folder which I do not read. I encourage students to speak with me directly after a lecture to set up an appointment.

II. GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an in-depth exploration of human cognition, focusing on both classic and current issues. We will discuss how cognitive psychologists build theories (or models) of mental processes, and how these models are used to understand and predict behavior. Topics to be covered include (but may not be limited to): history of cognitive psychology, research methods in cognitive psychology, attention, perception, memory, language, and reasoning. In addition to these subjects, we will examine the research on social cognition, motivation, and emotions.

III. RATIONALE

This is an elective course that counts towards the requirements in the psychology minor, major and combined major.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are as follows:

1. Provide students with a general overview of research on human cognitive abilities;
2. Train students in reading original articles in experimental cognitive psychology;
3. Introduce students to scientific research and peer review publications;
4. Help students further develop their critical thinking and analytical skills;
5. Facilitate the development of written and oral communication skills.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the historical context in which cognitive psychology emerged as a field;
2. Compare and contrast the theories associated within the primary areas of scientific research in cognitive psychology;
3. Access, read, and critically evaluate peer review articles in psychology journals;
4. Exhibit listening, questioning, and verbal expression skills in group discussions;
5. Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.

VI. LECTURES

Students are expected to attend the lectures and to have read the assigned readings beforehand. This means that it is understood that students be present and actively engaged during lectures, that all information and material presented or discussed during lecture is potential material for exams, and that important announcements may be made during the lecture. Thus, any student who does not attend lecture is responsible finding out what occurred there.

Please be so kind to turn off all mobile phones and other electronic devices when in the lecture and to have them stored away, out of sight. It is a distraction for the lecturer (as well as just plain bad manners) if students are texting, taking photos, checking e-mails or in other ways using electronic devices. I will ask you to leave the lecture should your behavior be disturbing to me or your fellow students. I would prefer that you not use a laptop/notebook during the lectures as other students get distracted by your screen. I am willing to discuss and reconsider this issue if for some reason you really need your computer, but you will have to discuss this with me in person first (no emails on this topic please).

VII. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Specifics literature about different topics will be given in class
- Power Point Presentations

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you obtain with respect to a total of 200 points.

Regular reading and review of information provided is essential for learning; therefore, two exams are planned for this course. Each exam will be based on multiple choice questions / open questions and will be worth 60 points.

You will be required to write a well-reasoned and appropriately supported research paper (60 points). In the research paper, you will be requested to explain what you have learned after exploring a specific topic in depth, including information from sources such as research articles, scientific volumes, etc. Papers should be written in text processor Microsoft Word, page format A4, in Times New Roman font (12 pt), 1.5 line spacing. All pages must be numbered. Papers length must be between 20,000 and 25,000 characters (with spaces, including references and tables). References should conform to APA instructions and should be listed at the end of the paper, in the section entitled “References”. The list should include only the references mentioned in the text, ordered alphabetically by the authors’ surnames. Due via email on May 1st, 2019.

You will work on a project investigating elements of selected cognitive issues. All topics must be approved in advance by the professor. The project has two components: a short report (between 4,000 and 6,000 characters, with spaces, including references) and the delivery of a 30 minutes presentation to the class about your topic. Further information about the class project will be distributed and discussed in class. Once the date of your presentation is scheduled, it is very difficult to change, as this will disrupt the schedule for the remaining presentations of your fellow students. In the case of a personal/family emergency, with appropriate documentation (for example, a note from a doctor or counselor), I have the option of assessing the feasibility of rescheduling your presentation.

Finally, attendance and class participation will be noted. In this way, your final evaluation will be determined by several different means, providing a well-balanced reflection of your effort and ability to integrate the material throughout the course.

IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Final grades will be determined based on the following weighting:

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 30%

Research Paper 30%

Attendance and Class Participation 10%

Failure to complete an exam, the research paper or the student presentation will result in failing the course regardless of what your average is across the other exams, the research paper or the student presentation.

An approximate guide for final grades is as follows:

A: 191-200 total points; A-: 181-190 total points

B+: 174-180 total points; B: 167-173 total points; B-: 161-166 total points

C+: 154-160 total points; C: 147-153 total points; C-: 141-146 total points

D+: 134-140 total points; D: 127-133 total points; D-: 121-126 total points

F: 119 total points and below

X. POLICY ON LATE WORK AND ABSENCES

Make-up exams will not be offered, except in the case of documented personal/family emergencies. In these exceptional cases, appropriate documentation (for example, a note from a doctor or counselor) is required for a student to make-up a missed exam. All other work is expected to be turned in on time, so please plan accordingly.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

- When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers, notebooks, and phones must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.
- As logistically as possible, students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.
- During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors may be on the desk.
- Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence or see a student consult a cell phone during an exam, the presumption will be that the student has cheated on that exam.

- If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.
- It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.
- A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.
- A student found cheating on an exam will be given an "F" for that examination. If it is a final examination, the student may be given an "F" for the course.
- A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an "F" for that paper. Notification will be sent to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.

XII. COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	MAIN THEMES
21 January	Introduction: What is Cognitive Psychology?
28 January	Historical Foundations
31 January	Attention
4 February	Attention
7 February	Language
11 February	Language
14 February	Thinking
18 February	Thinking
25 February	Perception
28 February	Intelligence
4 March	Learning
7 March	Mid-Term Exam

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

25 March	Memory
28 March	Memory

1 April	Reasoning and decision-making
4 April	Reasoning and decision-making
8 April	Problem solving and creativity
11 April	Problem solving and creativity
15 April	Cognitive development
18 April	Cognitive development
29 April	Expertise
2 May	Social Cognition and Morality
6 May	Social Cognition and Morality

Final Exam