

# PSYCH 417: Psychology of Cognitive Processes

Tuesday/Thursday: 9:30am-10:45am

Section 001; Class Number 3153

Spring 2008 – WH 213

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Zapf

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**Office hours:** Mondays 1pm-4pm, Wednesdays 12pm-3pm, & by appointment

**Websites:** www.uwgb.edu/zapfj & www.uwgb.edu/learnlab

**Course description:** This course will provide an overview of the theories and methods used in the study of human cognitive processes, as well as give the student an opportunity to experience first-hand some of the phenomena within cognitive psychology. Some of the topics covered will be attention, memory, language, and problem solving.

## Psychology Student Learning Outcomes covered in this course:

**Primary Outcome:** Knowledge of the perspective and methods of the areas of psychology that adopt the natural science paradigm with an advanced understanding of the content in at least one these areas (i.e., perceptual, cognitive, or physiological psychology).

## Secondary Outcomes:

- 1) Can identify the assumptions and characteristics of experimental and nonexperimental research in psychology, and the constraints on the inferences that can be made from the results of research.
- 2) Can understand and critically evaluate published research in psychology and recognize its implications.
- 3) Can communicate clearly in writing about issues and topics in psychology.

## Required texts:

- 1) Goldstein, E. B. (2008). *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Wadsworth.
- 2) Vanhorn, D. (2008). *CogLab Online Manual*. Wadsworth.

You may purchase this bundle at the bookstore. The bundle includes the text, your individual Coglab access code, and the CogLab Online Manual. Please note that the Coglab access code and CogLab Online Manual are available through this option at no additional charge to you when you purchase this bundle. In other words, you are charged only for the textbook.

If you choose to purchase the Goldstein text elsewhere, please be aware that you will need to also purchase an **individual** and **unused** online access code for CogLab if the textbook you purchase does not include this at no additional charge. You may purchase this online at <http://ecatalog.cengage.com/110/> by entering "CogLab" in the search field. From the items found select the "CogLab Online Version 2.0 Instant Access Code" and then follow the ordering instructions. Please note that at the time this syllabus was created the base cost (without tax or shipping charges) for the online access code was \$25.16. With this option you would use the CogLab Online Manual which is available online at no charge:

<http://www.coglab.wadsworth.com/support/CogLabStudentManual.pdf>

**Clickers:** We will be using clickers, aka, student response systems, in our class this semester. Clickers are small hand-held devices that allow all students in a class to “vote” or respond to survey and quiz questions presented in class. You will pick up your clicker on the third floor of the Cofrin Library at the Circulation desk. There will be signs indicating the exact location. You will check out a clicker just like you check out a library book. You will need to bring your student ID.

You must have a clicker by the end of the first week of class.

In an effort to keep costs low, you will be renting your clicker rather than purchasing it. The rental charge for the semester is \$20. Note that a student who loses or damages their clicker or fails to return it at the end of the semester will be invoiced \$50. The \$20 rental fee will appear on your student account in SIS; you will not pay the rental fee at the Library when checking out your clicker.

**The \$20 fee will appear on your record whether or not the clicker is checked out, so pick one up!** You need to have your own clicker. You cannot share one. Also, if you use clickers in two or more classes, you only need one clicker; you do not need a separate clicker for each class that uses one.

If you drop this class prior to February 1, 2008, you must return the clicker to Emily Rogers or Leah Smith at the library's circulation desk on the third floor to have the \$20 fee removed. This 100% refund period ends February 1, 2008. If you drop the class after February 1 you will still be charged for the \$20 rental fee. In all cases, you will be invoiced the full \$50 replacement fee if the clicker is not returned to the circulation desk in the library at the end of the semester.

We will be using the Turning Point XR model clicker with LCD display. Please do not attempt to use a clicker that was acquired outside of the library process described above. Only clickers acquired through the library are supported on campus.

Additional information can be found on the web at <http://www.uwgb.edu/learntech/clickers/Instructions.htm>.

**Attendance:** Attendance is highly recommended. Information will be covered in class that is not covered in the book. You will be responsible for information that is discussed in class, regardless of whether or not it is included in the readings. In addition, on each day (beginning January 29, 2008) there is not an in-class clicker quiz or an exam, you will receive four points for participating in all clicker activities for the day (13 class periods = 52 points). Additionally, there may be the possibility of a few extra credit points over the course of the semester through in-class activities. Remember, you are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions.

**Readings and Clicker Quizzes:** Please complete the assigned readings prior to class. Keeping up with the reading will help you both get more out of class discussions and aid in your retention of the material. In addition, information from the readings will be on the exams. In order to facilitate the reading of the material prior to class, twelve clicker quizzes will be administered during class time. The days in which clicker quizzes will take place are starred (\*) on the detailed schedule at the end of this syllabus. Note that in most cases these quizzes come on days when there is a reading assignment due. You will be allowed to drop your two lowest clicker quiz scores; only the ten highest scores from the twelve clicker quizzes will count towards your final grade.

The clicker quizzes may take various forms, such as five questions at the beginning of class and five questions at the end of class. The questions will appear in a variety of formats, such as true/false and multiple choice. The problems on the clicker quizzes will provide you with an opportunity to test whether or not you really understand the material you have read (and in some cases the material elaborated upon in class). In addition, the problems will be very similar to those that appear on the exams and, thus, the clicker quizzes will provide you with experience with the type of questions you will see on exams.

**Experiments & Homeworks:** You will be required to complete 10 experiments in CogLab. During the first week of the course you will need to register with CogLab online. Please see your CogLab manual for detailed instructions on how to do this. Your Group ID and Password are located on the "Course Home" page on D2L. In addition, detailed instructions also appear on the "Content" page on D2L.

The homeworks will involve completing questions from the CogLab Manual about the experiment you participated in. Homework assignments will be posted on D2L under the "Content" tab at least one week before the assignment is due. You will submit the assignment in the corresponding Dropbox in D2L.

**The questions must be answered in your own words. If you copy from the text, a website, a classmate, or in any way turn in an assignment that is not written in your own words, you will receive a failing grade on that assignment.**

**Exams:** There will be four exams, each worth 100 points. The fourth exam will be at the scheduled time for the final exam, however it is not cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, matching, and/or short essay questions. You will be responsible for everything covered in the textbook and in the lectures. I will design questions that test your knowledge of the general concepts and definitions, underlying principles, and important experimental methods and results. You should study and read for comprehension as opposed to brute memorization, keeping in mind you will also need to learn particular terms for ideas.

Please note that, except under extreme circumstances, **no make-up exams will be given.** Because exam dates are specified well in advance you are expected to be able to take all of them. If you miss an exam without prior authorization from me, you will receive 0 points for that particular exam. Exceptions for catastrophic cases will be reviewed individually and will require proper documentation.

**Course website:** Course announcements, grades, the syllabus, homework assignments, and other information relevant to the course will be posted on D2L: <https://uwgb.courses.wisconsin.edu>  
Please look at the site regularly as ALL dates are tentative and are subject to change.

**From the University:** As required by federal law and UW-Green Bay policy for Individuals with Disabilities, students with a documented disability who need accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at 465-2841. Reasonable accommodations can be made unless they alter the essential components of the class. Contact should be made with the Disability Services Office and the instructor during the first week of class.

**Grading:**

4 exams @ 100 points each	400 points ~50%
10 clicker quizzes @ 10 points each *two lowest are dropped	100 points ~12.5%
10 experiments & homework @ 25 points each	250 points ~31%
<u>13 attendance days @ 4 points each</u>	<u>52 points ~6.5%</u>
Total	802 points 100%

In this way, approximately 50% of your grade will come from your exam scores and 50% of your grade will come from your weekly work. Grades will be assigned in the following manner:

A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A/B	88-92%	C/D	68-72%
B	83-87%	D	60-67%
B/C	78-82%	F	<60%

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Due (Goldstein)	Homework Assigned	Homework (due by 11:59pm)
T	1/22	Course Introduction			
R	1/24	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 1	HW 1	
T	1/29*	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology			HW 1
R	1/31*	Cognition and the Brain	Chapter 2		
T	2/5	Cognition and the Brain			
R	2/7*	Knowledge	Chapter 8	HW 2	
T	2/12	Knowledge			HW 2
<b>R</b>	<b>2/14</b>	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, 8</b>			
T	2/19*	Short-Term and Working Memory	Chapter 5	HW 3	
R	2/21	Short-Term and Working Memory			HW 3
T	2/26	Special Topic: Clive Wearing			
R	2/28*	Long-Term Memory	Chapter 6	HW 4	
T	3/4	Long-Term Memory			HW 4
R	3/6*	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors	Chapter 7	HW 5	
T	3/11	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors			HW 5
<b>R</b>	<b>3/13</b>	<b>Exam 2: Chapters 5-7</b>			
T	3/18	Spring Break			
R	3/20	Spring Break			
T	3/25*	Language	Chapter 10	HW 6	
R	3/27	Language			HW 6
T	4/1*	Perception	Chapter 3	HW 7	
R	4/3	Perception			HW 7
T	4/8*	Visual Imagery	Chapter 9	HW 8	
R	4/10	Visual Imagery			HW 8
T	4/15	<b>Exam 3: Chapters 3, 9, 10</b>			
R	4/17*	Attention	Chapter 4	HW 9	
T	4/22	Attention			HW 9
R	4/24*	Problem-Solving	Chapter 11		
T	4/29	Problem Solving			
R	5/1	Creativity			
T	5/6*	Reasoning and Decision Making	Chapter 12: pp. 434-436, 443-478 only	HW 10	
R	5/8	Reasoning and Decision Making			HW 10
T	5/20	<b>Exam 4 Chapters 4, 11, 12 Time: 8:00-10:00am</b>			

