

# SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, RELIGION AND SOCICAL SCIENCES

# 1717 S. Chestnut Ave.

Fresno, CA 93702-4709

www.fresno.edu

## Psy 370 Cognitive Psychology

**Course Syllabus**

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| **Semester/Year:** Spring 2015  **Units:** 4.00 | **Instructor**: James A. Van Slyke  **Office Hours:** 1-2pm Tues, Wed, Thurs.  **Office Location:** North Hall 117  **Phone number: (559) 453-4607**  **Email**: jav4@fpu.edu |
| **Length** 16 weeks. Classes begin on January 13th 2015 and the last day of class is April 30th 2015  **Schedule**  All classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays  Time: 3:50 - 5:30 pm  **Final** 3:00 - 5:00 pm Tuesday, May 5th |  |

**Course Description**

This course surveys a broad range of theories and research regarding cognitive psychology, covering such topics as perception, attention, memory, language, problem solving, judgment and decision-making, pattern recognition, categorization, attitudes and consciousness.

**Student Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the nature of cognition, memory, language, and reasoning
2. Understand theories and research in the field of cognitive neuroscience
3. Apply concepts from cognitive psychology to different areas of the behavioral sciences and to everyday life
4. Examine cognition from a developmental perspective

**Course calendar** (Reading assignments will be made weekly on the Moodle website)

**Week** **Dates**

Week 1 Jan 13th – Jan 15th

Introduction to Class and Cognitive Science

Overview of Cognitive Science

Week 2 Jan 20th – Jan 22th

Theories and History of Cognition

Week 3 Jan 27th - 29th

Models of Cognition

Week 4 Feb 3rd – Feb 5th

Perception & Attention

Week 5 Feb 10th – 12th

Cognitive Development

Week 6 Feb 17th – 19th

Memory Systems

Week 7 Feb 24th – 26th

Embodied Cognition

Week 8 Mar 3rd – Mar 5th

Review

**March 5th: Mid-Term**

Week 9 Mar 10th – 12th

No classes Spring Break

Week 10 Mar 17th – Mar 19th

Theory of Mind and Teleology

Week 11 Mar 24th – Mar 26th

Consciousness

Week 12 Mar 31st – Apr 2nd

Knowledge Representation

Week 13 Apr 7th – Apr 9th

Language

Week 14 Apr 14th – Apr 16th

Emotion

Week 15 Apr 21st – Apr 23rd

Special Topic: Moral Psychology

Week 16 Apr 28th – Apr 30th

Special Topic: Cognitive Science of Religion

Week 17 May 5th – May 7th

Finals Week

**FINAL: Tuesday May 5th 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Required/recommended texts and supplementary materials**

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| 521708370 | Matlin, Margaret W | Cognition | 8th/2013 |

**Assessment and grading system for major assignments**

**1. Pop Quizzes** There will be some pop quizzes approximately every other week worth approximately 20 points each consisting of 15 to 20 questions. Each quiz will be fill in the blank and cover relevant material from class and texts.

**2. Mid-Term and Final exams** (150 points). There will be a mid-term worth 75 points and a final worth 75 points. They will cover material presented throughout the class. The final will not be comprehensive, but consist of material not covered in the mid-term. Make-up tests will be given only to those students who have an excused absence. Students who know in advance that they will miss a test should notify the instructor in advance. If you are unable to attend class on the day of a test, you MUST notify the instructor immediately if you want the opportunity to take a make-up. Make-up tests should be taken within one week of the regularly scheduled test and must be scheduled through the Psychology office.

**3. Term Paper** (75 points) - You will be required to complete an 8-10 page term paper due at the end of the term. No late papers will be accepted except in the case of a serious emergency. Late papers will be deducted a letter grade for each day they are late. This paper will discuss research in cognitive science and its relationship to something of interest to the student. A more detailed description will be handed out later in the semester.

**4. Cognition Movie Project** (75 points) – Student teams will film a short movie that describes some aspect of cognition in a creative and interesting way. Students will be graded based on their knowledge, accuracy, and creativity in describing some aspect of cognition that could be used to help other students understand some aspect of human cognition. Students will sign up for a particular topic and show their features during class.

**5. Group Discussion Project** (75 points) – Student teams will present a powerpoint presentation based on their own independent research about a topic in Cognitive psychology. Presentations will be made throughout the semester. Students will sign up for a presentation based on topics relevant to topics presented in class.

***Grading scale for the course:***

93-100=A 87-89=B+ 77-79=C+ 67-69=D+ 0-59=F

90-92=A- 83-86=B 73-76=C 63-66=D

80-82=B- 70-72=C-60-62=D-

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| --- | --- |
| A | Superior knowledge regarding details, assumptions, implications, history; superior thinking with information relevant to application, critique, and relationship to other information. |
| B | More than adequate knowledge regarding technical terms, distinctions, and possesses an ability to use information. |
| C | Basic knowledge needed to function and carry on learning regarding major principles, central terms, major figures, also possesses an awareness of field or discipline. |
| D | Serious gaps in knowledge, confusion of concepts and categories, inability to recall basic information. |
| F | Absence of knowledge, incapable of carrying on a conversation about the subject, misunderstands most concepts, confuses all categories. Missing assignments, continually absent from class, lacks a sufficient grasp of the course material. |

**UNIVERSITY POLICY SUMMARIES**

For complete policy details check the current Academic Catalog.

**Attendance Policy**

The university expects regular class attendance by all students. Those students who will be absent for an extended period of time should contact their program director or advisor who will discuss the options available, such as a leave of absence. Students may view their attendance records on CampusCruiser.

**Registration**

Only individuals who are registered may attend classes. Non-registered students may not turn in assignments, take tests or receive grades.

**Course Drop Policy**

Refunds and grades for dropped courses are based on the last day of attendance. Each week the refund amount decreases. Students who do not attend at least one class during the first week of a course will be administratively dropped from the course by the Registrar’s Office. After the first week of class, failure to drop courses in a timely manner will result in failed grades and financial responsibility for payment.

**Academic Honesty/Integrity**

Everyone who participates in the educational process at FPU is expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Cases of academic dishonesty are first handled between instructors and students. Depending upon the severity of the case, consequences may range from partial credit after work is redone to expulsion from the university. As in all situations where a member of the university violates the behavioral and academic expectations of the community, opportunity for restoration and restitution will be extended to those willing to work to correct the situation and reconcile with the university community

**Behavioral Standards**

Student behaviors disruptive to the educational process may result in the student being dismissed from a class or a program.

**Sexual Harassment Policy**

Harassment of a student or an employee of the University by other students, employees, supervisors, or agents of Fresno Pacific University will not be tolerated. All reports of harassment will be taken seriously, promptly investigated and addressed by FPU in accordance with university policies and procedures.

**Responsible Use of Technology**

The use of campus computing resources at Fresno Pacific University is a privilege, not a right. Violations of university guidelines on computer use will result in disciplinary action, which may include any of the following: warnings, loss of computer privileges, suspension, or legal prosecution.

**Disability**

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Support Center to discuss academic and other needs as soon as they are diagnosed with a disability. Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made.

**Incompletes**

Incomplete grades are to be issued only in the case of absence from classes due to unexpected and unavoidable circumstances, such as illness, accident or death in the immediate family, which have made it impossible for the student to complete all course requirements as scheduled. A grade of incomplete is not to be issued for unsatisfactory work or failure to submit work through negligence. Student must submit the appropriate form, available online from Registrar’s Office.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students are expected to make satisfactory progress toward completion of their program by maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher for associate/baccalaureate students, 3.0 or higher for graduate students and 2.5 or 3.0 (for seminary students, depending on the program). Cumulative grade-point average is based on FPU coursework only.

**CampusCruiser**

CampusCruiser is the university’s Web portal and should be used to access everything related to university online content, including event calendars, schedules, classes, campus life and email. Students are expected to check their fpu.edu email on a frequent and consistent basis (at least weekly.)

**Student and Faculty Dispute Resolution**

Occasionally a student may find cause to question the action of a professor regarding requirements of a course, teaching effectiveness, comments made in a class that seem derogatory or inflammatory, criticism of the student, general performance or sanctions given for academic dishonesty. Students should first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If the student and faculty member cannot resolve the issue satisfactorily or if the student does not feel comfortable speaking directly with the instructor the student should consult with the chair of the division in which the course is lodged, who will attempt to resolve the issue. Decisions may be appealed to the dean of the appropriate school for a final resolution.

**Right to Petition**

Request for exception to academic policies may be made when there are extenuating circumstances such as a serious medical condition, a death in the immediate family or other traumatic, unforeseen events. Students should complete a petition form, along with the nonrefundable fee, and submit it to the Registrar’s Office. Petitions will be forwarded to the appropriate academic official or committee for consideration and decision.

**Privacy**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Check the university website for details.