

**Syllabus
Cognition
Summer 2023**

Professor Info		Course Info	
Professor:	Nicholas Maxwell, PhD	Course #:	PSYC 4163
Office:	OD 118	Time:	Asynchronous
email:	nicholas.maxwell@msutexas.edu	Location:	Online
		Office Hours:	By appointment (email me!)

Required Texts:

Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience by E. Bruce Goldstein (5th Edition) (2019)

Course Objectives:

Cognitive psychology is the study of how we sense and interpret information from the world around us, incorporate this new information with our prior experiences, and determine how to respond to an ever-changing environment. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the scientific study of the mind. By completing this course, you will:

1. Gain a deeper understanding of cognition as a science, including its history and current research trends.
2. Understand the interplay between various cognitive systems, including attention/perception, language and memory, and judgment/decision making.
3. Gain a deeper understanding/appreciation of the role of cognition in everyday life.

Attendance/Make-Up Exam Policy:

This is an asynchronous, online course. This means that there is technically nothing for you to attend (i.e., we will not have formal meetings). ***It is your responsibility to keep up with lecture videos, readings, and exam/quiz due dates!*** This class moves quickly and you *will* fall behind if you don't keep up! If you incur an illness or emergency that prevents you from completing your coursework, please contact me immediately!

No make-up exams or quizzes will be given ***except in the case of an emergency***, such as a serious illness, a serious accident, or a death in the family ***OR*** in the case of a previously excused absence (see *Attendance* section above for what qualifies as an *excused absence*).

You must verify your emergency with documentation. ***You must contact me via email no later than 24 hours after the missed exam!*** If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero.

Course Requirements:

1. **Exams:** Students will complete ***four*** exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth ***100*** points and will consist of short essay format questions. Exams will be conducted ***online*** through D2L and will be ***open note/open book.*** Remember, open book does ***not*** mean open collaboration. You are expected to complete the exam on your own. Collaborating with others or

basing your responses off of another student's work will be considered an honor code violation. Exams will open on Friday at 8:00am and will close at 6:00pm that evening. Once you begin the exam, you will have ***three*** hours to complete it. This means that you should start your exam no later than 3:00pm! Exams will count for 100 points each and will therefore be worth 400 points (50% of your course grade).

2. **Quizzes:** Students will complete 4 quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz corresponds to one unit (3 chapters). Like the exams, quizzes are open note/open book. Quizzes for each unit are due by 11:59pm the day before their corresponding exam (i.e., Quiz 1 is due on Thursday, 6/8, Exam 1 is due Friday, 6/9, etc.). See the course schedule for all due dates! ***Don't wait until the last minute to do the quizzes!*** Ideally, you should complete each quiz after watching the appropriate set of lecture video(s). Each quiz will be worth 50 points. Thus, quizzes will count for 200 points (25%) of your final course grade).
3. **Discussion Board:** Each week there will be a discussion board thread on a topic related to material learned from the book/lectures posted on D2L. The discussion board will be open textbook/notes meaning that you may use your material while you write your posts. To satisfy the discussion requirement you must:
 - a. **Part 1:** Post your initial response to the question. Your initial response should be well formulated, draw on the lectures/textbook readings, and be at least 100 words. In order to give everyone time to respond, your response must be posted no later than each Wednesday at 11:59pm (25 points each)
 - b. **Part 2:** You must also reply to at least one other student's post (not your own!). Your response should be at least 50 words and should attempt to clarify a point or add something of value to the conversation (just saying "I agree" is not adding value and would not receive credit!). It is expected that you will display respect for different opinions, perspectives, and values in all online activities. If your posts are not appropriate, you will earn a 0 for the discussion board post that week. (25 points each; total discussion board grade == 200 points; 25% of your course grade).

Grades:

Your final grade in the course will be calculated based on ***800*** total points.

800-720:	A
719-640:	B
639-560:	C
559-480:	D
< 479:	F

No extra credit will be offered for this course! (If you email me, I'm just going to tell you to check the syllabus...)

Email Policy:

You are required to use your MSU Texas email accounts for this class. I will not send emails to any other email accounts. I will also not send out class information to any other email address other than your

university email account. ***Before emailing me about your question, make sure that your question has not been answered/addressed in the syllabus or elsewhere!*** When emailing me, please put the course number (PSYC 4163) in the subject line. This will immediately let me know which class you are in so I can respond faster. ***If you do not include the course number, your name, etc., (i.e., I have no idea who is emailing me), I WILL NOT reply!***

Finally, since this is an online course, try to practice appropriate email etiquette. Emails are technically formal communication, and at minimum, your emails should contain a greeting, a body, and a signature. Be aware of how your message may be interpreted, especially if you structure your email in the same manner as a text. Click [here](#) for an excellent resource from the University of Nevada-Reno on proper email etiquette.

I will try my best to get back to you within 24-hours (during the week) or within 3 days (weekends, holidays, if you decide to email me at 10:00pm on Friday...)

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic Dishonesty is defined as cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct: [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating on exams or written assignments will result in dismissal from this class with a grade of "F" and referral to the Dean of Students. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using unauthorized notes of any kind during an exam, looking on another's exam, allowing another student to look on your exam, plagiarism, and self-plagiarism.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

This course utilizes the MSU D2L program for assignment submission. Relevant course materials will also be posted on D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

Disability Services:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Disability Support Services (DSS) during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

Midterm Grade Reports:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. ***Midterm progress reports will only be provided for students with a grade of C or less in the course.*** Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcripts, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester.

Change of Schedule:

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Important Dates

Deadline to file for *August* graduation: **6/26**

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W”: **6/23**

Refer to: Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Course Schedule:

Week	Topics/Chapter	Assignments	Exam Due
1 (6/5 – 6/9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Cognitive Psych? (Ch1) • Perception (Ch3) • Attention (Ch4) 	Discussion Board 1 Post (6/7) Quiz 1 (6/8) Discussion Board 1 Reply (6/9)	EXAM 1 Opens: 8:00am (6/9) Closes: 6:00pm (6/9)
2 (6/12 – 6/16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term/working memory (Ch5) • Long-term memory-Structure (Ch6) • Encoding, Retrieval, Consolidation (Ch7) 	Discussion Board 2 Post (6/14) Quiz 2 (6/15) Discussion Board 2 Reply (6/16)	EXAM 2 Opens: 8:00am (6/16) Closes: 6:00pm (6/16)
3 (6/19 – 6/23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyday memory/memory errors (Ch8) • Conceptual Knowledge (Ch9) • Visual Imagery (Ch10) 	Discussion Board 2 Post (6/14) Quiz 2 (6/15) Discussion Board 2 Reply (6/16)	EXAM 3 Opens: 8:00am (6/23) Closes: 6:00pm (6/23)
4 (6/26 – 6/30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language (Ch11) • Problem Solving/Creativity (Ch12) • Judgments/Decision Making (Ch13) 	Discussion Board 4 Post (6/28) Quiz 2 (6/29) Discussion Board 4 Reply (6/30)	EXAM 4 Opens: 8:00am (6/30) Closes: 6:00pm (6/30)
5 (Finals week)	No Final (Enjoy your summer! 😊)		