



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

PSY 4117: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

CREDIT: 3 UNITS

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Lucy Simiyu

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Course Description

This course is a survey of cognitive psychology, which examines how information of the world is gained, represented and transformed as knowledge, stored, and used to direct attention and behavior. Topics include perception, pattern recognition, attention, memory, imagery, language functions, thinking and problem solving, human intelligence and artificial intelligence.

Link to the university wide mission statement outcomes

The course Psy 4117 is directly linked to the University Mission outcomes of higher order thinking, preparedness for career, global understanding with a multicultural perspective and transformational leadership.

Link to the school of humanities and social sciences statement outcomes

This course is directly linked to the mission of the School of Arts and Sciences which is to provide an enabling learning environment through quality programs where undergraduate and graduate students acquire knowledge, skills, positive attitudes, values and desirable behavior. Further, the School of Arts and Sciences is committed to promoting the generation and dissemination of knowledge in order to create a better world.

Link to program learning outcomes

This course provides knowledge and skills that meet requirement for PLO'S:

1. Articulate the major concepts, theories, empirical findings, ethical standards and historical trends in psychology.
2. Conduct research in a variety of settings
3. Demonstrate creative and critical thinking approach to psychological issues in diverse settings
4. Communicate in multicultural settings
5. Use psychological knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to aid in interventions

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of well-established theories in cognitive psychology, as well as an appreciation for the complexity of cognitive processes.

2. Appreciate research and theories of cognition from diverse fields of study, including neuroscience, neuropsychology, evolutionary psychology, and behavioral economics.
3. Acquire an understanding of research methods in cognitive psychology and the ability to critically evaluate research in this area
4. Apply the use of traditional research designs in cognitive psychology to understand mental events
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method and targeted topics in cognitive psychology in the composition of two APA-style writings.
6. Apply research in cognitive psychology to everyday events and challenges.

Course Requirements

1. Students are required to attend the classroom sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9:00 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.). **Only a maximum of 7 absences is allowed during the entire semester. More than 7 absences will earn a student an automatic "F".**
2. **Journal article critique (in groups of 5-6):** Students are expected to select an article from an empirical journal which reports the results of a study dealing with some aspect of cognitive psychology and write a critique as per the given guidelines. The paper must be written in current APA format and include a title page, an abstract page, a table of contents page, 5-8 full pages of text, and a reference page. ***In addition, students should attach a copy of the abstract and one page of the reference page from the cited article at the end of their critique.*** Students should bind their final paper. Details of the task are provided separately.
3. **Quizzes:** Students will sit for 4 quizzes in the course of the semester. This will be in Weeks 3, 6, 9 and 12.
4. **Exams:** Students will be required to sit both the mid-semester and end-semester exams.

Teaching Methodology

Lecture, class discussions, literature review and presentations, reading assignments, video presentations

Course Text

Galotti, K. M. (2014). Cognitive Psychology: In and out of the Laboratory (5th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

Extra Reading

Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017). Cognitive Psychology (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Course Evaluation

Final Exam	30 points
Mid-Term Exam	20 points
Group work (Journal article critique)	25 points

Quizzes (4)	20 points
Attendance & Participation	05 points
Total Points	100 points

Grading

90-100	A
87-89	A-
84-86	B+
80-83	B
77-79	B-
74-76	C+
70-73	C
67-69	C-
64-66	D+
62-63	D
60-61	D-
00-59	F

Key Institutional Academic Policies

Students should note the following are key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students' Handbook:

1. Academic dishonesty

- a. **Any intentional giving or use of external assistance** during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination.
- b. **Fabrication:** any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise;
- c. **Plagiarism:** any passing off of another's ideas, words, or work as one's own;
- d. **Previously Submitted Work:** presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course;

2. Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Upon being absent from **eight (8)** classes in a 3 unit course, the instructor will give a student an **"F"** grade for that course.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1:

Introductions, Signup Sheets and Responsibilities

Course Learning Outcomes

Scheduling for the Semester

Assignments due

Course Overview: Discussion with students on general knowledge and perspectives on cognitive psychology; definitions; expectations; a general overview of the main course texts and syllabus.

An introduction to Cognitive Psychology: History

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 1

Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 1

Week 2:

An introduction to Cognitive Psychology: Paradigms

An introduction to Cognitive Psychology: Research Methods

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 1

Week 3:

Quiz #1 – 40 minutes

Cognitive Neuroscience (The Brain)

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 2

Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 2

Week 4:

Visual Perception

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 3

Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 3

Attention and Consciousness

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 4

Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 4

Week 5:

Memory: Models and Research Methods

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 5

Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 5

Retrieving memories from long-term storage

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 6

Week 6:

Quiz #2 (October 9, 2018) - 40 minutes

Memory Processes

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 6
Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 6

Week 7:

Mid-Semester Exam (Covering Weeks 1 - 6)

Week 8:

Mental Images and Propositions

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 8
Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 7

Knowledge representation and organization

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 7
Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 8

Week 9:

Quiz #3 - 40 minutes

Problem Solving and Creativity

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 10
Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 11

Decision Making and Reasoning

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapters 11
Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 12

Week 10:

Human Intelligence

Readings: Sternberg, R. J. & Sternberg, K. (2017), Chapter 13

Week 11:

Cognitive Development through Adolescence

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapters 12

Individual Differences in Cognition

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapters 13

Cognition in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Readings: Galotti (2014), Chapter 14

Week 12:

Quiz #4 (October 30, 2018) – 40 minutes

Group Presentations – Groups 1, 2 and 3

Week 13:

Group Presentations – Groups 4, 5 and 6

Week 14:

End-Semester Exam