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**PSY 4364-40:** Cognitive Psychology

**Course meets:** Thursday 4:30pm-6:50pm NBC 115

**Instructor:** Jeremy W. Newton

**Office:** NBC 108

**Phone:** 817.531.4958

**Office Hours:** MW 1:30pm-5pm, TR 2:50pm-4:20pm, T 10am-12noon, and by appointment

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**Webpage:** <http://sites.google.com/site/psy4364/>

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### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth overview of human cognition.

### Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about some of the "basic" processes of attention, perception, and memory.
- Students will also learn the "complex" processes of language, reasoning, problem solving, and creativity.
- Students will learn how cognitive psychology has impacted us as individuals, our society, and cultures around the world.
- Students will also learn about the process of human thinking in a way that allows for development of insight into his/her own thought processes.

### Required Materials

Galotti, K. (2008). *Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory*. Thomson/Wadsworth. ISBN: 0-495-09963-5

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Washington, DC: APA.\*

-4 Scantron Forms, No. 2 Pencil, Index cards (3x5)

\*You may also use the 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

### Instructional Methods

The class will be a combination of lecture, demonstration, and class discussion. Your exams will cover material from your lesson and book. They will be a combination of multiple choice and essay. Students will also complete a 10 page research paper over the course of the semester. Students are encouraged to participate in class through asking relevant questions and discussing various psychological phenomena. Your research paper will be an **APA literature review**. You will provide a review of a topic of your choice regarding cognitive psychology. Please note that the topic must fulfill two absolute requirements: (a) it must be relevant to some aspect of the course and (b) it must be a topic on which psychologists have conducted research. The paper will consist of a title page, abstract, main text, and references section, all not to exceed 10 typed pages. The class is supported with a website (<http://sites.google.com/site/psy4364/>) and writing assignments will be turned in electronically via the Turn-it-in.com web-based program. Ability to access PDF files is important. The instructor will often email announcements to class via your @txwes.edu email address. It is **strongly recommended** that you use your assigned Texas Wesleyan email account for correspondence.

## Evaluation & Grading

Students will be assessed according to the following percentage schedule, adjustable at instructor's discretion to assure fairness:

90% - 100%	A	80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C	60% - 69%	D
F < 60			

Percentage points are earned in the following way:

One brief exam	10%
Two examinations*, 20 percent each:	40 %
Final examination:	30 %
APA literature review (includes all homework assignments):	20 %
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100 %</b>

\* Examinations will be a combination of multiple choice and essay answer.

## Attendance Policy

**Regular** and **punctual** class attendance is **required**, as class lessons are integral to the richness of this course. The maximum number of absences during a semester for this class is **3 (three; three academic weeks)**. This is not as restrictive as the policy set by the University. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student that misses more than 3 class periods during the semester. Students are reminded that they are responsible for **all** course material, including class information, handouts, book material, presented video, research project presentations, and notes posted at the class website.

## Makeup Exam and Missed Assignment Policy

It is your responsibility to notify me **in advance** of any authorized (i.e. University related) absence and to contact me within 24 hours of any unauthorized absence of an **exam day**. Arrangements for a make-up exam, if applicable, will be made at that time. Note: If you know in advance that you will be absent on the day of an exam, you have the option of either taking an alternative exam **one day early**, on **dead day** (December 3), or during the final exam period following the final. If an exam is missed due to an unauthorized absence, you have the option to take an alternative exam on **dead day** or during the final exam period following the final. The format of the alternative exam will be determined by the instructor. The final exam cannot be moved or made up. A student that misses more than one exam will be dropped from the course. Late writing assignments are penalized 10% for each 24 hour period late.

## Texas Wesleyan University Policies

Students should read the current Texas Wesleyan University Catalog and Student Handbook to become familiar with University policies. These policies include but are not limited to grade appeal, sexual harassment, student access to records, and others; policies specified in the current catalog are applicable unless otherwise stated in this syllabus.

**Academic Integrity** - Please see the student handbook regarding appropriate standards of conduct in courses at Texas Wesleyan University. Cheating and Plagiarizing will not be tolerated. **Any indication of academic dishonesty (page 63) will result in the student receiving an F for the course and recommendation of dismissal from the University to the Dean.** A link is provided below:

[http://www.txwes.edu/registrar/documents/TexasWesleyanUGcatalog09-11\\_002.pdf](http://www.txwes.edu/registrar/documents/TexasWesleyanUGcatalog09-11_002.pdf)

**American Disabilities Act (ADA)** - Texas Wesleyan University adheres to a disability policy which is in keeping with relevant federal law. The University will provide appropriate accommodation as determined by the Director of the Counseling Center, Dr. Michael Ellison. Students must notify instructors of any permanent or temporary disabilities and must provide documentation regarding those disabilities prior to the granting of an accommodation. For assistance, students should consult with Dr. Ellison at [mellison@txwes.edu](mailto:mellison@txwes.edu) or (817) 531-7565.

**Syllabus is Subject to Change** - Course syllabi are intended to provide students with basic information concerning the course. The syllabus can be viewed as a 'blueprint' for the course; changes in the syllabus can be made. Students will be informed of any substantive changes concerning examinations, grading, or attendance policies and changes in project assignments.

### **Class Schedule**

Notes: Lesson dates are an approximation. All exams will be given on scheduled dates.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Activity</u>
R 8/27	Ch. 1: History, Methods, Paradigms	
R 9/3	Ch. 2: Brain and Cognitive Neuroscience	
R 9/10	Ch. 3/4: Recognition and Attention	<b>Brief Exam</b>
R 9/17	Ch. 5: New Memories	PAPER: Title Page and Topic Statement DUE
R 9/24	Ch. 6: Long Term Memory	
R 10/1	Ch. 7: Memory for General Knowledge	PAPER: Revisions and References DUE
R 10/8	Ch. 8: Concepts and Categorizations	<b>Exam 1</b>
R 10/15	Ch. 9: Visual Imagery and Spatial Cognition	
R 10/22	Ch. 10: Language	PAPER: Revisions and Introduction DUE
R 10/29	Ch. 11: Thinking and Problem Solving	<b>Exam 2</b>
R 11/5	Ch. 12: Reasoning	PAPER: Draft DUE (optional)
R 11/12	Ch. 13: Decision Making	
R 11/19	Ch. 14: Development and Crosscultural Perspectives	<b>TERM PAPER DUE: 4:30 P.M.</b>
R 11/26	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</b>	
<b>R 12/3</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM: 4:30 PM-6:30 PM</b>	