

Cognitive Psychology

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PSYC 4315-060
Fall 2021

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Instructional Team Information

	Preferred name and pronouns	Full name	E-mail	Phone	Office hours
Instructor	Dr. Kirby; she/her	Lauren Kirby	LKirby@uttyler.edu	903-655-4841	MWF 3-4PM
GTA	Nick; he/him	Nicholas Sims-Rhodes	NSimsRhodes@uttyler.edu	NA	Thurs 10am-1pm

Course and Meeting Information

This course is fully online and asynchronous, meaning there are no course meetings, nor is there any one scheduled time that all students must do the same activity together. Assignments for each module may be submitted any time after they become available and before their posted due dates. There are no timed exams, only “take-home” projects. This course requires on average 10-15 hours of work per week. Although there are no live lectures, Dr. Kirby and your teaching assistant (TA) Nick will be consistently available by the posted methods at the scheduled times unless otherwise announced.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Textbook

Pilegard, C.. (2020). *Cognitive Foundations*. Merlot. PDF or Website (no ISBN). Creative commons license: CC-BY-NC-SA Retrieved from <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=773310412>

Reading the textbook is an essential foundation for engaging with lecture material and assignments: click [here](#) for tips on how to effectively study a textbook.

This textbook is FREE, but I am required to put this note here in the syllabus anyway by the University. Note: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer. You may also buy any binding format or electronic copy that you wish.

Recommended Website

Purdue University Writing Lab. APA formatting and style guide (7th Edition). *Purdue online writing lab (OWL)*.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Canvas

The course will be administered through our learning management system Canvas.

Check the course Canvas page and your UT Tyler email daily on weekdays. Your TA and I will communicate with you through Canvas announcements, UT-Tyler email, and pages and documents linked in the “Modules” and “Assignments” tabs. Pay special attention to the Course Calendar and the Assignments and Activities descriptions. Go to Canvas settings and [set up your notifications to](#) “subscribe” to such announcements and comments from us so you will not miss anything. I give feedback on some assignments through the comments feature when you check your assignments through the “Grades” tab. You will find those in the same place you submitted an online assignment on the right-hand side reading “comments.” I also may attach drafts of documents (.docx) with tracked changes and comments; make sure you know [how to view tracked changes](#) and comments in Word if they are not automatically visible for you when you first open the document.

Microsoft Office

You will need to use Microsoft Office products (Word, PowerPoint, and Excel) for some assignments. Do not use alternative programs such as Apple’s Pages, Google Drive documents, or any other formats. If you do not have Microsoft Office, please visit the following page for instructions for how to download it for free: <https://www.uttyler.edu/it/office365/365->

proplus-students.php You need a webcam, microphone, and familiarity with how to record presentations using Zoom. Webcams and microphones are built into some computers already, but not all. Please test your devices as soon as possible to make sure your work. I can set up a test Zoom call with you to help you. Even inexpensive earbuds have microphones on them, so please procure one. Please let me know if you cannot access a webcam, microphone, or any other technology for this class. This request needs to be made as early in the semester as possible so that shipping or any other logistics could be achieved on time.

Course Catalog Description

An examination of the cognitive processes involved in human mentation. Includes the study of attention, perceptual processes, memory, knowledge representation, language, decision making and problem solving. Recommended: Prior completion of PSYC 1301 or equivalent.

Student Learning Outcomes

Content

At the end of this course you should be able to master course content (remembering and understanding) in major areas such as

- the historical development of cognitive psychology;
- methods of cognitive research;
- attention;
- sensation and perception;
- short-term, working, and long-term memory;
- memory biases, forgetting, and knowledge storage;
- language;
- problem-solving; and
- reasoning and decision-making.

Skills

In addition to content, this course is focused on skills. For more details about how the following skills will be assessed, see “Assignments and Activities.” Assignments and activities in this course will tap into a variety of skills. For the content areas described above, you have the opportunity to

- **apply** theories or findings to real-world situations and to your own cognitive processes;
- **analyze** how content areas relate to each other within the information processing model and to other courses and domains;
- **evaluate** others’ answers in discussions; **evaluate** theories or approaches in terms of their predictions and evidence;
- and **create** test question; **create** a portfolio of improvements made to previous work in the course.

Assignments and Activities

a Paper, a Video, and a Portfolio

Prep Guides

To guide your textbook and article reading and to help you to read more advanced writing in cognitive psychology, you will be asked to complete some Prep Guides. Each Prep Guide contains open-ended questions pertaining to the week’s assigned reading, requiring a response of at least four sentences. Prep Guides are designed to encourage note-taking and close reading to practice for larger assignments. Prep Guides are graded based on accuracy. Each Prep Guide is worth 40 points each for a category total of 400 points (40% of your course grade). I offer 12 Prep Guides, but only 10 will be counted in your final grade, with your lowest two being dropped.

Science Communication (SciComm) Video

Around mid-term, you will have the opportunity to 1) demonstrate your understanding of what you have read; 2) connect the research to relatable real-world examples; 3) recognize the

implications and limitations of a study, and 4) communicate in ways easily understandable to a non-expert audience, much as you might find yourself doing in your future career. You will be asked to record yourself giving an oral presentation explaining the purpose, methods, results, and implications of a single research article chosen from a provided list. You may present for 10-15 minutes for an imagined general, non-expert audience (such as junior students, family members, coworkers, etc.). Your videos will be posted for other students to view, much in the same way live presentations in a classroom would be attended by the other students. Click on “Sci Comm Video” in the Assignments tab on Canvas for more details, including a rubric, examples of completed versions of the assignment, and links to tutorials for required technology use. The project is worth 200 points (20% of your grade). The short-answer items will help prepare you for the Tests. You will develop and practice the necessary skills for this project by completing Prep Guide writing items to the best of your ability and improving based on provided feedback. If you fail to submit the project by the deadline, or think you will struggle to meet the deadline, please contact me about it as soon as possible.

Critical Research Paper

After completing your Science Communication Video, you have the opportunity to express your understanding of cognitive psychology research in a written format. In this course, a successful APA-style critical research paper 1) closely examines a single research article from a provided list; 2) summarizes the main purpose, method, results, and conclusion of the study; 3) evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the study; and 4) argues either for or against the article’s authors’ conclusions. The length of your paper is not as important as the content, but in order to have a successful paper, you should probably write around 3-5 pages double-spaced. Click on “Critical Review Paper” in the Assignments tab for more details, including a rubric, examples of completed versions of the assignment, and links to tutorials for required technology use. The project is worth 200 points (20% of your grade). If you fail to submit the project by the deadline, or think you will struggle to meet the deadline, please contact me about it as soon as possible

Portfolio

The portfolio is a collection of artifacts from the course that you have improved and/or reflected upon. A complete portfolio is worth 200 points (20% of your final grade) and includes a revision of your Sci Comm Project (re-do the video based on feedback); a revised Critical Research Paper based on feedback, and a reflective essay (response to provided questions). Portfolio components will all be bundled into one document or presentation: find a way to display your accomplishments in this course with some style, creativity, and pride. Click on “Portfolio” under the “Assignments” tab for more information, including a rubric, the reflection questions for the essay, technology resources, and an example. The Portfolio is due at 11:59pm on the date listed on the syllabus calendar: there are no make-ups possible for this assignment because of my tight deadline for entering final grades.

Course Policies

Contacting Me

To meet with me, drop into the Zoom office hours as listed above (you can keep your video off if you want): you do not need to message or arrange an appointment for these. If none of the office hours work for you, please email, suggesting a meeting time in your first message. Similar contact procedures apply for your TA Nick. You may call my listed phone number as well. You may also email at any time. I generally work 8-5 M-F and will be less responsive outside of those times. I may take one business day to respond to email, but strive to return calls and texts as soon as possible. I keep the ringer turned on my phone during office hours,

but off the rest of the time, so I may be slower to respond. You may text in the evenings or on weekends, but I may be slower to respond than during my work hours.

Make-up and Late Work

Deadline dates and times are firm. If you experience significant barriers to submitting on time, please contact me as soon as possible about it. If it is close to or after the due time and you cannot reach me, feel free to submit it anyway and I can evaluate whether and how to award credit. I do NOT ask for documentation for medical, family emergency, religious, or other excuses; however, I may ask for screenshots in the case of electronic submission errors to help troubleshoot. Late policies vary based on the assignment type. Prep Guides have more flexibility than the other assignments because they generally do not build on each other. Instead of providing make-up opportunities for Prep Guides, I will drop your two lowest grades from that category. If you fail to submit a video or paper by the deadline, or believe ahead of time that you may not meet the deadline, please contact me as soon as possible. These projects need to be revised for the final portfolio. I need time to give you feedback on them and you need time to re-record and re-write them. Please contact me to arrange a revised submission plan in such an event, keeping that feedback process in mind. Because of the turnaround time needed for feedback, these projects cannot be submitted more than a week late.

Covid Statement

Students are expected to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff. Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, digestive issues (e.g. nausea, diarrhea), or a higher than normal temperature should stay at home and are encouraged to use the [UT Tyler COVID-19 Information and Procedures](#) website to review protocols, check symptoms, and report possible exposure. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Diversity Statement

Embrace the diversity among course-takers. In this course, you will be part of a community of learners that benefits from the exchange of diverse perspectives and experiences. We expect that all course-takers are respectful of these differences. We all come to the table with differing experiences and viewpoints, which means that we have so much to learn from each other! In order to get the most out of this opportunity, it is important that we don't shy away from differences. Rather, we should show respect for differences by seeking to understand, asking questions, clarifying our understanding, and/or respectfully explaining our own perspective. This way, everybody comes away with new perspectives on the issue and respecting others with different values or beliefs. If someone says something that bothers you for any reason, assume that your peer did not mean to be offensive and ask your peer to clarify what he or she meant. Then explain the impact it had on you. If your classmates tell you that something you said or wrote bothered them, assume that they are not attacking you, but rather that they are sharing something that might be important for you to know.

Grading

There are 1000 points available in this course. The following table displays the number of points devoted to each type of assignment and its proportion of your final grade.

Assignment	Points	Number	Category Points	Percent of Grade
Prep Guides	40	10/12	400	40%
Video	200	1	200	20%
Paper	200	1	200	20%
Portfolio	200	1	200	20%
Total			1000	100%
Extra Credit	Varies	Varies	10	1%

I do not round final grades. Please let me know if and why you feel any grading or feedback is in error.

Extra Credit

You may earn extra credit by participating in research hours on SONA (2 pts/hour), writing response papers to research articles (2 pts/paper), counseling hours (2 pts/session), writing response papers to podcasts (2 pts/paper), 0.5 point for each extra collaborative quiz question set answered or graded, or for extracurricular work at my discretion. I will provide research articles for extra credit papers: to write a review of one, type at least two double-spaced pages summarizing the content of each major section of the article (e.g., Method, Discussion) and provide at least one critique of each section. For a podcast review, choose any episode of Invisibilia, Hidden Brain, or 10% Happier to listen to. Write a 2-page double-spaced paper summarizing the content of the episode and providing critique. These are completion-based papers and are meant to be equivalent effort to showing up to participate in research or counseling (because we cannot require you to do those and need to provide alternatives). Extra credit points are added to your Portfolio grade, but because the grading is based on total points, it does not matter where I add it. I will notify you where and when they get added. You may earn a maximum of 10 points of extra credit and the deadline to earn any points is the final exam day.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Topic(s)	Assignments	Reading
08/23-28	1	History & Research Methods	PG 1	Syllabus; Ch 1
08/30-09/04	2	Sensation & Perception	PG 2	Ch 2
09/06-11	3	Attention	PG 3	Ch 3
09/13-18	4	Reading Research	PG A	Posted Articles
09/20-25	5	Short-Term Memory	PG 4	Ch 4
09/27-10/02	6	Long-Term Memory	PG 5	Ch 5
10/04-09	7	Memory in Context	PG 6	Ch 6
10/11-16	8	Science Communication	Video	Posted Articles
10/18-23	9	Knowledge	PG 7	Ch 7
10/25-30	10	Writing & APA Style	PG B; Paper	Posted Articles
11/01-06	11	Language	PG 8	Ch 8
11/08-13	12	Problem Solving	PG 9	Ch 9
11/15-20	13	Reasoning & Decision Making	PG 10	Ch 10
11/22-27	N/A	Break	Break	
11/29-12/04	14	Portfolio	Portfolio	
12/07-11	15+	Final Portfolio	Portfolio*	

* The Portfolio is due at 11:59pm on Wednesday, 12/08.