

Cognitive Psychology

Code	PSYC 4315.001
Term	Spring 2023
Instructor	Dr. Lauren Kirby
Department	Psychology and Counseling
Institution	University of Texas at Tyler
Format	Face-to-Face

Instructional Team Information

	Preferred name and pronouns	Full name	E-mail	Phone	Office hours
Instructor	Dr. Kirby; she/her	Lauren Kirby	LKirby@uttyler.edu	334-703-5635	TBA
GTA	Kyla; she/her	Kyla Kiser	KKiser@uttyler.edu	NA	TBA

Course and Meeting Information

This course is face-to-face meeting twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4:50 pm in Braithwaite Building (BRB) Room 1030. Assignments for each module (week) 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.

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>

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. **Instructor addition: 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

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.utt Tyler.edu/it/office365/365-proplus-students.php>. In case of isolation/quarantine due to illness (my isolation OR yours), you need a webcam, microphone, and familiarity with 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

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.

Assignments and Activities

Class Participation

In class we will do some informal quizzing, discussion, or other activities such as experiencing how researchers measure cognition. There will be 16 of these activities available but the lowest two will be dropped from your grade automatically.

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 a combination of completion and accuracy. Each Prep Guide is worth 3% of your course grade. I offer 12 Prep Guides, but your lowest two will be dropped automatically, for a category total of 30% of your final course grade.

Science Communication (SciComm) Project

Around mid-term, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate 1) your understanding of what you have read, 2) predict and evaluate the consequences of research, and 3) communicate in ways easily understandable to a non-expert audience, much as you might find yourself doing in your future career. You have two formatting choices—oral presentation or written article—and five choices of topics. You will be asked to write an article or 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 5-10 minutes or write a 600-1000-word article considered understandable by a general, non-expert audience (such as junior students, family members, coworkers, etc.). Both formats assess the same skills and require

approximately the same length of content. The project is worth 30% of your grade. You will develop and practice the necessary skills for this project by completing the writing-related Prep Guides 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 before the due date.

Research Participation

This course focuses on many research studies behind cognitive psychology principles, so you have the opportunity to engage in the participant experience in real-life psychology studies. You are required to earn at least **6 SONA credits** (half-hour research study participation units) on the UT Tyler Psychology and Counseling SONA system. More SONA details will be posted to Canvas.

Portfolio

The portfolio is a collection of artifacts from the course that you have improved and/or reflected upon. A complete portfolio is worth 20% of your final grade and includes a revised Prep Guide (based on feedback; must be one you completed and did not skip); your revised Science Communication project 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. There are no make-ups possible for this assignment because of my tight deadline for entering final grades.

Course Policies

Make-up and Late Work

I do not do deductions for late work. I do not offer make-ups for completion assignments such as Prep Guides (this means I just do not accept late ones). You may get an extension on the Science Communication Project if you request it in a timely manner (before end-of-business/5pm on the due date). I do NOT require 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.

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.

Grading

The following table displays the number of assignments and their proportions represented in your final course grade.

Assignment	Number	Percent of Grade
Class Participation	20/25	20%
Prep Guides	10/12	30%
Sci Comm Project	1	30%
Portfolio	1	20%
Total		100%
Extra Credit	Varies	1%

I do not round any grades. Please let me know in writing if and why you feel any grading or feedback is in error. The grading scale is as follows:

- A = Excellent, $\geq 90\%$
- B = Good, $\geq 80\% < 90\%$
- C = Fair, $\geq 70\% < 80\%$ (the lowest possible passing letter grade if this is a course for your major)
- D = Poor, $\geq 60\% < 70\%$
- F = Fail, $< 60\%$ points
- I = Incomplete: Agreed upon and assigned if you stop participating due to some crisis (that you notify me about) and agree to finish the remainder of assignments within one year.

Extra Credit

You may earn extra credit by participating in extra 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), 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 Science Communication Project grade. I will notify you where and when they get added. You may earn a maximum of 10 points of extra credit (max of 1% of final course grade) and the deadline to earn any points is the final exam day.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Topic(s)	Assignments	Readings
01/10/23	1	History and Research Methods		Syllabus
01/12/23	1	History and Research Methods	PG 1	Ch 1
01/17/23	2	Perception		Ch 2
01/19/23	2	Perception	PG 2	Ch 2
01/24/23	3	Attention		Ch 3
01/26/23	3	Attention	PG 3	Ch 3
01/31/23	4	Research and Writing		Posted article
02/02/23	4	Research and Writing	PG R1	Posted article
02/07/23	5	Research and Writing		Posted article
02/09/23	5	Research and Writing	PG R2	Posted article
02/14/23	6	Short-Term Memory		Ch 4
02/16/23	6	Short-Term Memory	PG 4	Ch 4
02/21/23	7	Long-Term Memory		Ch 5
02/23/23	7	Long-Term Memory	PG 5	Ch 5
02/28/23	8	Science Communication		
03/02/23	8	Science Communication	Project	
03/07/23	9	Memory Failures		Ch 6
03/09/23	9	Knowledge	PG 6	Ch 7
03/21/23	10	Imagery		On Canvas
03/23/23	10	Cognitive Development	PG 7	On Canvas
03/28/23	11	Language		Ch 8
03/30/23	11	Language	PG 8	Ch 8
04/04/23	12	Reasoning		Ch 9

04/06/23	12	Decision Making	PG 9	Ch 10
04/11/23	13	Animal Cognition		On Canvas
04/13/23	13	Disorders of Cognition	PG 10	On Canvas
04/18/23	14	Work on Portfolio		On Canvas
04/20/23	14	Work on Portfolio		On Canvas
TBD	15+	Finals Week	Final Portfolio	