PSYC208: COGNITION

15 points, 0.1250 EFTS
Second Semester: 16 July 2018 – 18 November 2018

Academic Staff
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Content & Objectives
What has more computing power than a billion PCs, is readily portable, and weighs less than 1.5 kg? How does this magnificent machine comprehend language and make inferences, such as for example that the previous sentence refers to the human brain? What is known about how the brain stores information from scenes and our environs, our past experiences, and general world knowledge so that the right information is conveniently available just when you need it, except in a test or exam? What is attention and why does it appear to be so selective? Do we ever process information unconsciously? What is known about our methods for solving problems? In our everyday thinking and decision-making does the brain lead us to follow logical rules and the rational procedures that economists assume or has evolution provided us with other modes of thought more suited to the uncertainties of our social and physical worlds? How do people become skilled and expert? Clever experiments coupled with brain imaging technologies are enhancing knowledge of human cognition and its underlying brain processes. Virtually every domain in psychology draws upon findings and concepts generated in cognitive psychology. You will find this course fundamental preparation for your later studies in social, industrial-organisational, abnormal, biological, clinical, forensic, and developmental psychology. Every student who is considering postgraduate study in psychology would be wise to include the study of human cognition in his or her undergraduate programme.

The lecture part of the course will generally be organised around the Anderson (2015 8th ed.) text. Concurrent study of the text with topics covered in lectures is expected. Both are examinable. Make sure you understand the “take home” summary at the end of each subtopic in the text. You should also have a general understanding of the major findings. Revision questions will be issued to assist your preparation for the test and final examination.

Prerequisites
Students who have passed PSYC 105 and PSYC 106 (or PSYC 104), or COSC 121 and 122, or LING 101, or PHIL 137, or a Professional Year of engineering are eligible to enrol.

Lecture times
Mon 1:00-1:50pm (Law 108 Lecture Theatre) and Thur 3:00-3:50pm (K1 Lecture Theatre), but please refer to the PSYC208 course web page or My Timetable before lectures begin for rooms and any updates on lecture times.
Labs contribute 15% towards course credit. **Attendance is compulsory.** Labs are held weekly in The Computer Suite, Room 225 Psychology Lab block. Available streams:

- Tuesday 9.00-10.50 am
- Tuesday 11.00-12.50 pm
- Wednesday 3.00-4.50 pm
- Thursday 9.00-10.50 am

The number of lab streams available will be dependent on class numbers and will not be finalised until closer to the start of term. Refer to your My Timetable or course web page for information. A notice will be put on your course in Learn as soon as this has been finalised.

**All students must sign up for a lab stream via My Timetable before 5 pm Friday 20th July. Access to self-allocation will be from 13th July.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Test: Thursday 23rd August in-class – 3:00-3:50pm.......................... 20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Report: due 5 pm Friday 21st September.......................... 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laboratory Exercises due weekly ................................................... 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam (check University website for details).................................. 40%</td>
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</table>

**Textbook**


**Recommended Books**


**Assignment & Change of Lab Streams**

Everyone must sign up for a lab stream as described below.

Selection and change of lab streams is done via My Timetable (access from the Students page on the university web site or via the link on the course Learn homepage).

- It is not possible to sign up for a stream that is full. Please contact Ewald Neumann if you have problems with lab stream signup.
- Signup should be made by 5 pm Friday 20th July in time for the commencement of labs which begin during the week 23 – 27 July.

**Laboratory Classes**

In labs you participate in classic and current research experiments. Tutors guide you through analysis so you can see the patterns emerging from data you have generated. You should also acquire skills that will assist you in distinguishing genuine findings from false and exaggerated claims about human cognition.

Weekly lab exercises contribute 15% to the assessment of the course. Because each exercise contributes less than 10% aegrotat and impaired performance provisions do not apply. However, you may be exempt a lab in exceptional circumstances. Contact Ewald Neumann.

**Research Report**

Due 5 pm Friday 21st September, 25% of course assessment. The experiment discussed during Lab 2 (31 July – 4 August) will form the basis of your report. You will be given the rationale for the experiment and some key readings and the relevant data. Your task is to produce a research report adhering to the style of the American Psychological Association (See O’Shea & McKenzie 2013 or editions for details). Aegrotat applications are NOT normally accepted but extensions will be granted where there is genuine reason, provided application is made BEFORE the submission date. Discuss your situation with Ewald Neumann.

Your report must begin with the **Cover Sheet downloaded from The Research Report Section on Learn.** Use only the specific PSYC208 cover sheet for your Research Report. No other cover sheet will be accepted.

**Learn Web Link**

http://www.learn.canterbury.ac.nz/

**Library Access**

## PSYC208 Schedule 2018

The relevant chapter from Anderson (2015) is given in the **Text Chap** column. **Note that some topics are covered in 2 lectures, others in 3 lectures.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Text Chapter</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 July</td>
<td>Science of Cognition</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July</td>
<td>Attention &amp; Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Associative Priming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Attention &amp; Perform Rep of Knowledge</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Research Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>Representation of Knowledge</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Unconscious Priming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 August</td>
<td>Imagery</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Imagery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>Self-Study for Test</td>
<td><strong>Test Thursday 23 August 3:00-3:50 (20%)</strong></td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mid-semester break

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Text Chapter</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>Encoding and Storage</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Res Report Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td>Encoding &amp; Storage Retention &amp; Retrieval</td>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>Levels of Processing</td>
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</table>

*Research Report Due 5pm Friday 21 Sept (25%)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Text Chapter</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Sept</td>
<td>Retention &amp; Retrieval</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>Expertise</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>Language Structure</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>Language Comprehension Self-Study for Exam</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Test (20%):** **Covers lectures & labs (excluding research report) above the double line**

**Research Report (25%):** **Due 5pm Friday 21 September**

**Exam (40%):** **Lectures & labs below the double line; date advised by the University**
General Department of Psychology Information

IT Services: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/its/

Learn (online learning): http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/

UC Library Subject Guide: http://canterbury.libguides.com/psyc

Assessment Cover Sheets
Please attach cover sheets to the front of all your assignments. Hard copies can be found in the ground floor of the Psychology building where the assignment drop boxes are located, and electronic copies are available on LEARN.

Academic Liaison
If you have any concerns about a course, please contact the Course Coordinator in the first instance. The Department of Psychology has a Staff/Student Liaison Committee and each Semester students voluntarily represent courses from each level. Postgraduate students are represented for both Part 1 paper years and Part 2 thesis years for the whole year. A request for volunteers is sent early in the first semester.

Students with Disabilities
Please refer to the Disability Resource Service for information on study support services:
http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/

Policy on Dishonest Practice
Plagiarism, collusion, copying and ghost writing are unacceptable and dishonest practices.

- Plagiarism is the presentation of any material (text, data, figures or drawings, on any medium including computer files) from any other source without clear and adequate acknowledgement of the source.
- Collusion is the presentation of work performed in conjunction with another person or persons, but submitted as if it has been completed only by the named author(s).
- Copying is the use of material (in any medium, including computer files) produced by another person(s) with or without their knowledge and approval.
- Ghost writing is the use of another person(s) (with or without payment) to prepare all or part of an item submitted for assessment.

In cases where dishonest practice is involved in tests or other work submitted for credit, the student will be referred to the University Proctor. The instructor may choose to not mark the work.

The Department reserves the right to require work to be submitted in electronic format so that it can be submitted to plagiarism detection websites.

Special Considerations
Special Consideration for assessments is for students who have covered the work of a course but have been prevented from demonstrating their knowledge or skills at the time of the assessment due to unforeseen circumstances. Students should consult the Special Considerations website for information, and contact them directly with any queries. http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/special-consideration/

Also on the Examinations webpage is information about Results and Appeals for final grades. The Department of Psychology policy of “substantial part of assessment” for all courses is set at 50% of all coursework. Unless a minimum of 50% of coursework is completed, final special consideration will not be given.

Marks and Grades
You will get a mark and/or a grade for each piece of assessment during the course and a final grade at the end of the course. For more information on the University regulations for credit see:
http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations/general-regulations/general-conditions-for-credit-regulations/

Reconsideration of Grades
Students can appeal any decision made on their final grade, and should, in the first instance, speak to the course coordinator about their grade. Students can apply through Student Services to appeal for up to four weeks after the release of results: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/examinations/result-dates-and-appeals/.

For more information see General Course and Examination Regulations in the University Calendar:
http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/publications/brochure-gallery/.
Complaints and Grievances
If a student encounters any problems regarding any aspect of the course, they should in the first instance approach the lecturer concerned. Failing that, they can approach the course coordinator. For more information, please see the Psychology Handbook.

Missed Tests
In rare cases a student will not be able to sit a test. In such cases, the student should consult with the course coordinator to discuss if alternative arrangements are available. **This must be done well in advance of the set date of the test.** The criteria used for approving a special sitting are the same as the UC policy used for end-of-semester examinations, which are outlined below:

- Clash with another test from other UC courses
- Religious (Conflicting religious day or event)
- Bereavement (family member or close friend)
- Study (overseas study, must be a tertiary institute)
- Sporting or cultural event (Representing NZ, Canterbury or the University of Canterbury)
- Wedding (immediate family member or part of a bridal party)
- Business (travel)

With the exception of the above criteria, tests will only be given at the regularly scheduled time and place. Missed tests will result in a score of 0% for that test.

Emergency Assembly Area
Please gather in the Psychology car park on the grassed area away from the cars and buildings.

Health & Safety Information