Cognitive Psychology [PSY 380]
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 & 11 AM
Location: GMCS 214

Instructor: Dr. Katherine J. Midgley  e-mail: kmidgley@sdsu.edu
Office: 6505 Alvarado Road Suite 203     Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 - 2:00am with appt. & by appt.

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Office: LS 24A (basement)  Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am-11am

To fully participate in this course you will need:
- Goldstein textbook
- ParSCORE forms
- an iClicker (or iClicker App on smart phone)
- CogLab account and internet access

About this course: Cognition is the study of how we mentally process information. It can be generally defined as “the act or process of knowing, including both awareness and judgment.” Cognition as a sub-discipline of Psychology is relatively young. Some core work in the field began in the 1950s and the discipline came into its own in the 1960s. Since this time researchers have learned a great deal about how the mind processes information. More recently, cognition research has been supplemented with brain imaging and psychophysiological measures to see how brain processing maps onto cognitive behavior.

This course is designed to give an overview of theory and research in a range of cognitive behaviors and to inspire you to think about applications of cognitive principles to everyday life. Cognition includes basic processes of attention and perception and builds to encompass memory, language, and higher order processes of problem solving, reasoning, and decision making. We will focus on theories of these processes and empirical evidence that either supports or refutes the theories.


Readings: Readings should be completed before the class for which they are listed. Exams will cover information from all readings, lab activities and lectures. The schedule of assigned readings can be found on BlackBoard [Schedule_PSY-380.pdf]. You are responsible for monitoring the schedule of readings.


Additional Readings: Additional readings may be added to supplement the textbook. They will be posted as PDFs on Blackboard. You are responsible for monitoring the class reading schedule on Blackboard.

Lab activities: Over the course of the semester, you will be participating for credit ["lab points"] in several experiments through CogLab, a web-based set of experiments demonstrating some of the classic findings in cognitive psychology. To access CogLab and obtain a login, go to https://coglab.cengage.com/. See also CogLab_Info_PSY380_F-2015.pdf

Exams: There will be three exams. Exams are designed to last no more than 45 minutes and will be given in class. Consult the exam schedule on Blackboard for exam dates [Exam_Schedule_PSY380_F-2015.pdf]. Exams will cover material from lectures, readings and from the online CogLab activities. You are responsible for all material assigned for the course. Exams are made up of multiple choice questions. You will need to bring a ParSCORE test form (F-289-PAR-L) to all exams. You will have the opportunity to write some of the exam questions yourselves during the class before the exam.

Examination Policy: Students that arrive late for the exam will not be given additional time to complete the exam. Do not even consider that make-up exams as an option. Make-up exams will only be given under very rare circumstances when prior arrangements are made.

Quizzes: Because testing yourself on to-be-learned material is a very effective learning strategy we will have weekly quizzes. These quizzes will cover the material of the previous week. Quizzes are made up of 6 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will be administered using the iClicker. You will need to bring the
iClicker to every quiz. There are absolutely no makeups for quizzes. Your worst two quiz scores will not count against you.

Class participation: Student participation in class is encouraged. It serves as feedback for the instructor and can make a class more interesting for all. Participating students will be rewarded.

Attendance: Attendance to Monday and Wednesday lectures is expected.

Grading: Exams will be graded as percent correct. Your total quiz grade will be calculated as an overall percentage across the semester (# of correct answers / total # of questions minus 12). Your final lab grade is also a percentage (lab points earned / total possible lab points minus 15).

Final Course Grade: Your two best exam grades will each count for 33% of the final grade while your worst exam grade will count for 10% of your final grade. Your average quiz score will make up 9% of the final grade and your labs will make up the remaining 15%. Participation points will be added to final grade. There may be an extra credit opportunity.

Final grades in the course are based on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>63-66.9</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-62.9</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.9</td>
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Blackboard: You are responsible for monitoring Blackboard. Course announcements, CogLab assignments, additional resources and an up-to-date class schedule will be available on the course web site. The exact timing of reading assignments, quizzes and lab activities is subject to change. Check Blackboard.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism occur in many different intentional and unintentional forms. Familiarize yourself with the SDSU policies: [http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/SRR/cheating-plagiarism.html](http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/SRR/cheating-plagiarism.html)

Giving your iClicker to someone else for quiz or attendance scoring is CHEATING and will result in disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services.

Course Learning Objectives: By the end of this course you will:
1. have a general knowledge of some of the major theories and concepts in cognitive psychology.
2. be able to apply theories and principles from cognitive psychology to everyday situations.
3. understand basic processes of attention and perception.
4. understand higher order processes of memory, language, problem solving, reasoning, and decision making.
5. have a basic understanding of how cognitive psychologists design and conduct experiments to answer particular questions.
   a. understand how theories are used to generate testable predictions
   b. understand how data is used to decide between different theories.

Additional Department Level Learning Objectives: In addition to those outlined above, other learning objectives identified as important across the Psychology Curriculum that overlap with this course are:
1. Identify notable individuals together with their contributions to psychology. (SLO 1.1)
2. Characterize the nature of psychology as a scientific discipline and identify its primary objectives: to describe, understand, predict, and control behavior and mental processes. (SLO 1.7)
3. Use the concepts, language, and major theories of the field to account for psychological phenomena. (SLO 2.1)
4. Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings as these relate to everyday life. (SLO 2.4)
5. Explain the similarities and differences among the research methods used by psychologists. (SLO 4.2)
6. Frame questions or generate hypotheses about human behavior based on experiences and/or exposure to information from scientific literature, the general media, and specialized sources. (SLO 7.4)