

Psychology 6011

Cognitive Psychology Syllabus

Course Description

This course will survey cognitive psychology through discussion of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. We will cover the topics: perception, attention, memory, categorization, imagery, knowledge representation, memory, motor control & expertise, reasoning, and decision making. We will focus on modern theories and the historical context to understand the rationale for the current theories.

Course Goals

Students will learn and understand current cognitive psychological theories and their historical context for how we perceive and attend to the world around us; how we learn, remember, and organize our knowledge; how we use this information to solve problems and make decisions; and how all this comes together to produce adaptive behavior.

Lecture

Time: Monday and Wednesday; 11:00 – 12:15
Place: Engineering Sci and Mechanics 212
Professor: Eric Schumacher
Office: Coon 224
Email: eschu@gatech.edu
Office hours: by appointment
Readings: Textbook: *Cognitive Psychology*, John Anderson 9th Edition (optional)
Other readings available on canvas at least 1 week prior to assigned.

Important Dates

Monday, October 19th – Exam 1 (Topics/Chapters 1-6)
Friday, December 11th – Exam 2 (Topics/Chapters 7-11)

Course Exams and Grading

There will be two exams in this class. The first will cover the first 6 topics/chapters in the course. The second will cover from the last 5 topics/chapters. The exams will involve answering essay questions. Tests are closed notes, books, articles, etc. I will provide sample essay questions prior to the exam. You will also give a short 7-min presentation on a topic in cognitive psychology. Details about the presentation will be provided separately. Your grade in the class will be based on test performance (50%), presentation (15%), and participation (35%). The course will include a substantial amount of group discussion. You will work with a group to lead a discussion topic and you will participate in other discussions. You will earn credit for participating in all aspects of discussion. To encourage participation, each student will post a question or comment on Canvas discussion two days prior to the discussion (Saturday for Monday discussions, Monday for Wednesday discussions).

Grades will be determined based on the following scale:

90% – 100% = A
80 %– 89% = B
70% – 79% = C
60% – 69% = D

The above grading scheme represents the toughest I will grade. However, the cutoffs for grades might be relaxed depending on the proportion of students achieving each grade. This rarely happens.

Academic Honor Code

<https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-code>

Article II: Section 3. Student Responsibilities

Section 3. Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. The immediate objective of an Academic Honor Code is to prevent any Students from gaining an unfair advantage over other Students through academic misconduct. The following clarification of academic misconduct is taken from Section XIX Student Code of Conduct, of the Rules and Regulations section of the Georgia Institute of Technology General Catalog: Academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort Student grades or other Student academic records. Such acts include but need not be limited to the following:

- **Unauthorized Access: Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of a problem set, laboratory report, essay, examination, or other academic assignment.**
- Unauthorized Collaboration: Unauthorized interaction with another Student or Students in the fulfillment of academic requirements.
- **Plagiarism: Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, large language model/artificial intelligence, or yourself, without adequate credit notations indicating the authorship.**
- False Claims of Performance: False claims for work that has been submitted by a Student.
- Grade Alteration: Alteration of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit.
- Deliberate Falsification: Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a Faculty member and/or Institute Official, so as to obtain unearned academic credit.
- Forgery: Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any Institute document relating to the academic status of the Student.
- Distortion: Any act that distorts or could distort grades or other academic records.

While these acts constitute assured instances of academic misconduct, other acts of academic misconduct may be defined by the professor.

Statement of Inclusivity

Class discussion is critical for the success of this course. There may be topics for which we do not all agree. We must endeavor to be respectful of others as we present our ideas and as we listen to others' ideas. I am committed to creating a learning environment in which all of students feel safe and included. I will monitor the discussion to ensure this. I also rely on your feedback to achieve this goal. To that end, I invite you to talk with us about things that we can stop, start, or continue doing to make the classroom an environment in which every student feels valued and can engage actively in our learning community.

Disability Services Accommodations Procedures for Students

Georgia Tech complies with regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you need a classroom accommodation, please make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services to discuss the appropriate procedures. Please email me as soon as possible to discuss your learning needs. Their website is www.adapts.gatech.edu. Up-to-date listing of student recourses are available in the GT Student Resources link on Canvas.