

North Central University

COURSE SYLLABUS

Learning & Cognition

PSYC 275.01, 3 credits

Christina Calayag, Assistant Professor

Office: Kingsriter 205G

Email: crcalaya@northcentral.edu

Office Hours: Posted

Course Description:

How do we think? How do we learn? What are the processes that occur when we memorize something? This course will help answer those questions and more by introducing the student to the major theories of learning, cognition and memory, and their application to daily life. It will also address the biological, developmental, and social aspects that impact learning, cognition and memory. This course would be of interest to anyone curious about how to understand and manage their learning and thinking lives or to help guide others as they learn.

Prerequisite: PSYC 125 General Psychology

Course Objectives:

The successful completion of this course will allow the student to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the major theories of learning, cognition, and memory.
- Apply the information in the course to their own and other individuals' learning and thinking lives.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the biological, developmental, and social aspects of learning, cognition, and memory.
- Demonstrate reflective thinking on the major theories of learning, cognition, and memory.
- Be further stimulated to study the topic.

Required Material:

- Reed, S.K. (2010). *Cognition: Theories and Applications*, (8th ed.). Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.
- CogLab: The Cognitive Psychology Laboratory (online version)

Course Requirements:

- 3 Exams (50 points each)
- Learning Strategy Paper (50 points)
- 10 CogLab Experiments (10 points each)

Grading Criteria:

- **Exams:** 3 noncumulative exams will be given that are worth 50 points each. The exams will include multiple-choice and short-answer essay questions, unless otherwise informed. The exams will be given on the dates outlined in the course syllabus.
- **Learning Strategy Paper:** To successfully complete this assignment, the student will develop a learning strategy for a target individual/population using the theories and concepts presented in the course. The paper should include: (1) A description of the individual or population and the topic to be learned by them, (2) a thorough description of the strategies that will be employed and (3) the theories and concepts that support the use of the described strategies.

This assignment is worth up to 50 points and will be graded on both content and format. The paper may be written in either APA or MLA format. (SBS majors are expected to use APA format.)

- **CogLab: The Cognitive Psychology Laboratory:** To successfully complete these assignments, the student is required to complete the 10 online CogLab experiments determined by the instructor and outlined in the course syllabus. After completing the experiment, the student is required to post a 1-2 paragraph reflection on Moodle about how their understanding of the concept was impacted by the CogLab assignment and answer any other writing prompt provided by the instructor, found on the Moodle site. Each CogLab experiment is worth up to 10 points.

Grading scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

Policies:

1. **Attendance and participation.** The student is expected to attend and actively participate in each class session. Students who add the course after the first class meeting are held to the same syllabi expectations as students who start the course on the official start date.

You are allowed 9 total absences without penalty semester. If you miss more than 9 class periods you will automatically fail the course. Please reserve your skips for family emergencies and personal medical emergencies – as you will still be failed if you are forced to over skip due to unforeseeable circumstances.

2. **Tardiness.** You are expected to arrive to class on time. The roster will be passed at the beginning of class. If you arrive to class late and miss the roster, make sure with the professor that you are marked present. For every 4 tardies you accumulate it will

- count as 1 missed class period. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late to class or leave more than ten minutes early it will be considered a skip.
3. **Academic progress.** The student is expected to take on the primary responsibility for progressing successfully through the semester. The student is expected to remain current with the assigned readings, complete assignments on time, and contact the professor with questions/concerns. The student is also encouraged to visit the Academic Success Center when needed.
 4. **Laptops & Cell phones.** Students are NOT allowed to use laptops in class. Notes will be taken with pen/paper. The only exception to this rule is if there is a documented disability that requires the student to use a laptop for note taking purposes. Cell phones are also NOT allowed. Please be sure to turn off the ringer or the power to the phone. If a cell phone is being used during class, the student will be asked to leave and they will be counted absent for that class period.
 5. **Copies of assignments and records of grades.** The student is expected to keep copies of assignments and records of scores received so that verification of assignments completed may be made (if necessary), and so that the student's grade may be calculated at any point in the semester.
 6. **Academic integrity.** The student is expected to behave in a moral manner. Plagiarism is a serious offense at North Central University. The use of another person's academic work without proper citation can result in serious disciplinary action including the possibility of dismissal.
 7. **Disability.** Students who have documented disabilities and wish to discuss academic accommodations should make an appointment with the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. Students with disabilities need to ensure that these disabilities or conditions are documented with the Student Success Center.
 8. **Due dates.** The exams will be given on the dates outlined in the syllabus. All other assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed in the syllabus. **Late assignments will be accepted for full credit and missed exams can be made-up only with documentation of either a life-threatening family emergency or a personal medical emergency.** Other late assignments will be tolerated as follows: worth 90% if turned in on due date but after class, 80% if turned in 1 day late, 70% 2 days, 60% 3 days, etc.
 9. **Communication.** If you have questions or concerns regarding the course content or assignments please contact me. I am available via email, phone, or in my office and would be happy to field any and all of your questions.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Ch. = Chapter in Cognition: Theories & Applications to be read by start of class.

CL. = CogLab assignment (*other information is on the subsequent page.*)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 8	9	10	11	12	13 Ch. 1	14
15	16 No Class MLK Day	17	18 Ch. 2	19	20	21
22	23 Ch. 3 CL#1	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Ch. 4	31	February 1	2	3	4
5	6 Ch. 5 CL#2	7	8	9	10	11
12 CL#3	13 Exam 1	14	15 Ch. 6	16	17	18
19	20 No Class Pres. Day	21	22 Ch. 7 CL#4	23	24	25
26	27 CL#5	28	29 Ch. 8	March 1	2	3
4	5 --No Class	6 Spring Break-	7 --No Class	8 Spring Break-	9 --No Class	10 Spring Break-
11	12 Ch. 9 CL#6	13	14	15	16	17
18 CL#7	19 Exam 2	20	21 Ch. 10	22	23	24
25	26 CL#8	27	28 Ch. 11	29	30	31
April 1	2 Ch. 12	3	4	5	6 Easter Break	7 Easter Break
8 Easter	9 Easter Break	10	11	12	13 Ch. 13	14
15	16 Paper Due	17	18	19 No Class Fac. In-service	20 Ch. 14 CL#9	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 CL#10	28
29	30 Final Exam 10:00-11:00	May 1	2	3	4	5

**CogLab: The Cognitive Psychology Laboratory
Assignment Information**

Directions:

- Using your access code, log-in to CogLab and find the appropriate experiment.
- Thoroughly read the description and directions of the experiment (found on the website) and then complete the experiment. The experiments take anywhere from 10-30 minutes to complete.
- Submit a reflection on the experiment, as described in the grading criteria above, to the course Moodle site.

CogLab #	CogLab Experiment	Date Due
1	Visual Search	January 23
2	Brown-Peterson	February 6
3	False Memory	February 12
4	Encoding Specificity	February 22
5	Mental Rotation	February 27
6	Categorical Perception- Identification	March 12
7	Lexical Decision	March 18
8	Categorical Perception – Discrimination	March 26
9	Wason Selection task	April 20
10	Risky Decisions	April 27