

PSYC511

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Description

Course Description: This course guides students through advanced level, in-depth and detailed study of classic and contemporary models of human cognition and learning through the lenses of the principle schools of psychology. Specific theories addressed include: functionalistic, associationistic, and cognitive.

Course Scope:

This course introduces students to cognitive psychology and builds on that introduction through such topics as memory, consciousness, and language. Further, theories of learning will be explored as related to cognition and the cognitive process.

Objectives

Graduate learners successfully completing this course will have demonstrated an ability to apply in-depth knowledge of:

1. Sensation and perception as theoretical and applied constructs studied by psychologists
2. Attention as a cognitive psychological construct and related applications in the field
3. Seminal and contemporary models and theories of memory functioning.
4. The relationship between memory and consciousness
5. Models of language acquisition
6. The relationship between creatively, intelligence, logic, concept formation, and decision making
7. Functionalistic, associationalistic and cognitive theories of learning.
8. Methods of reviewing and evaluating course relevant research
9. APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Outline

Week 1:

Learning Outcomes

- Characterize the constructs of cognitive psychology and the disciplines of cognitive science

- Articulate cognitive models of the mind

Required Readings

- Read Chapters 1, 3, & 4

Assignments

- Forum 1 (*Instructions on the Forum*)

Week 2:

Learning Outcomes

- Assess functions and types memory
- Articulate the processes of forgetting, mnemonic systems and the phenomena of extraordinary memory ability

Required Readings

- Read Chapters 5 – 7

Assignments

- Forum 2 (*Instructions on the Forum*)
- Submit articles to be used for your Research Paper to your professor for approval

Week 3:

Learning Outcomes

- Characterize the features and functions of consciousness and mental map making
- Formulate goal and focus of major course paper.

Required Readings

- Read Chapters 8 – 10

Assignments

- Forum 3 (*Instructions on the Forum*)
- Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 4:

Learning Outcomes

- Characterize the features and functions of comprehension, reasoning and decision-making.

Required Readings

- Read Chapters 11, 13, & 14

Assignments

- Forum 4 (*Instructions on the Forum*)
- **Unit I Midterm Exam**

Week 5:

Learning Outcomes

- Evaluate and apply constructs of the Functionalistic Theories of Learning including the theories of
 - Edward Lee Thorndike
 - Burrhus Frederic Skinner
 - Clark Leonard Hull

Required Readings

- Read posted articles

Assignments

- Forum 5 (*Instructions on the Forum*)
- Week 5 Research Paper Draft due

Week 6:

Learning Outcomes

- Evaluate and apply constructs of the Associationistic Theories of Learning including the theories of
 - Ivan Petrovich Pavlov
 - Edwin Ray Guthrie
 - William Kaye Estes

Required Readings

- Read posted articles

Assignments

- Forum 6 (*Instructions on the Forum*)

Week 7:

Learning Outcomes

- Evaluate and apply constructs of the Cognitive Theories of Learning including the theories of
 - Jean Piaget
 - Edward Chace Tolman
 - Albert Bandura

Required Readings

- Read posted articles

Assignments

- Forum 7 (*Instructions on the Forum*)
- Course Paper due

Week 8:

Assignments

Evaluation

General Assignment Instructions

It is expected that graduate students will exhibit advanced level critical thinking, ability to synthesize multiple sources of information, high caliber writing skills and academic integrity in all course activities. With the exception of discussion forum posts and any other assignments so designated by the course instructor, assignment submissions completed in a narrative essay or composition format may not be written in first or second person (“I” or “you”). All writing must follow the citation and reference style established by *the American Psychological Association (APA)* in size 12 Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced with 1” margins on all sides of the page and include a cover page with the following centered vertically and horizontally: Student Name, Date of Submission, Assignment Title, Course Name and Professor Name. With the occasional exception of necessary brief quotes of specific statistical research findings or terminology used to describe research models or psychological constructs, in which case the author and publication must be properly source credited, all paper content **MUST** be paraphrased (summarized in the student’s own words) with proper source citations (See APA guidelines document in the classroom Resources folder).

IMPORTANT: Students engaging in graduate studies are held to rigorous standards. Absolutely **NO** copying of any kind is allowed in this course. When reporting on what one reads in any published source, including the course text, paraphrasing (summarizing what was read and learned in one’s own words) and providing the source(s) is required. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism. The website <http://owlenglish.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> is an excellent, easy to understand resource for APA style formatting and source citation. APA formatting guides are included in the classroom Resources folder. Any instance of plagiarism, regardless of intent, will result in an assignment score of zero with no option for revision and resubmission for the first incident and course failure for any additional incidents.

Scholarly, peer-reviewed journals must be used for assignment completion. Unless instructed to do so for specific assignments, students may not use commercial websites as the basis for completion of course work. Encyclopedia websites, such as Wikipedia or Encarta, dictionaries, About.com and other article summary sites, blogs or opinion slanted news media outlets may not be used for any writing assignment.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Forums: Due Weeks 1 through 8

Weekly dialogs with classmates will be based on engagement with assigned course readings and/or related multi-media and will take place in the online classroom on designated discussion Forums. A set of instructions for each dialog will be posted on its respective forum by the professor. While designed to promote lively discourse within a community of fellow learners, the dialogs are academic in nature and require a scholarly orientation, with students supporting their perspectives.

Exams: Due Weeks 5 and 8

This eight-week course is divided into two units:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Theories of Learning

At the end of each unit, students will complete a reading-based comprehensive exam comprised primarily of short-answer essay questions and open for one course week.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: Due Week 5

Each student will complete a literature search of a topic in psychology. An annotated bibliography is an APA formatted list of all the published sources used for an assignment with the word “References” centered at the top of the page. The term “Annotated” in the assignment title indicates that each article used must include directly below it a brief paragraph 4 to 5 sentences in length describing what the particular article covers.

These paragraphs must be written in the student's own words. Copying is forbidden and quoting isn't needed or accepted for this assignment. The assignment must be completed per the course general writing standards.

Research Paper Draft: Due Week 5

A rough draft of your Research Paper is required at the end of Week 5. Please see below instructions for information regarding the required content for this paper.

Research Paper: Due Week 7

This major course paper must be 10 to 12 pages (3000-3600 words), *not* including the title page, abstract, or reference pages. It will focus on a topic directly related to the course, of the student's choice and pre-approved by the course instructor. For this paper, students are required to review 6 to 8 scholarly, peer-reviewed articles from the APUS Online Library, summarizing, critiquing and discussing how the articles are related; and describing what additional research is needed in the future to expand the body of knowledge related to the topic. The relating of articles must be done via transition statements between related summaries such that the paper interweaves all the articles into a coherent and well-articulated review of scholarly publications related to the paper topic focus. For example, after one article summary, the statement, "Related research conducted by Smith (2010) showed that..." would be an effective means of connecting it to another summary. The paper will end with a minimum of two paragraphs summarizing points made and articulating suggestions for future research directions arising from the article reviews.

Selected articles must have been submitted for approval by the end of Week 3 and brief descriptions of content and URL links from the APUS Online Library must be submitted by the end of Week 5 of the course as the Annotated Bibliography assignment. Articles selected for written assignments other than the Annotated Bibliography (e.g. for Discussion Forums) cannot be used in the completion of the course Research Paper.

Paper topic examples:

- Critically examining the concept of creativity and its role in intelligence and problem solving
- Comparing and contrasting two learning theories from the same group (e.g., Thorndike vs. Skinner)
- Comparing and contrasting two learning theories (e.g., functionalistic vs. cognitive)
- Comparing and contrasting Noam Chomsky's theory of language acquisition with an alternative model

As a culminating course assignment, this submission will be evaluated based on:

The degree to which the article summaries are related and truly integrated within the paper; lack of supporting evidence of actual connections between the articles will result in a significant point deduction.

Evidence of academically mature insight and use critical thinking skills in analyzing and relating the articles.

Clear and thorough articulation of the paper's key points.

Compliance with APA paper formatting standards.

Minimal to no grammar, spelling or basic writing errors

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Exam	40.00 %
Midterm Exam-Week 4	21.82 %
Final Exam-Week 8	18.18 %
Forums	24.00 %
Forum 1	3.00 %

Forum 2	3.00 %
Forum 3	3.00 %
Forum 5	3.00 %
Forum 4	3.00 %
Forum 6	3.00 %
Forum 7	3.00 %
Forum 8	3.00 %
Paper	36.00 %
Annotated Bibliography	12.00 %
Week 5 Research Paper Rough Draft	12.00 %
Week 7 Research Paper	12.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Cognitive Psychology, 8th ed (custom)- (The custom ISBN may have more competitive pricing in hard copy or electronic format. The non-custom ISBN is: 9780205521081, please use this one to search for the book from other booksellers.)

Author: Solso, Robert L. / MacLin, M. Kimberly / MacLin, Otto H.

Publication Info: Pearson

ISBN: 9781269648752

Book Title: If you prefer the electronic format, your required book(s) may be available for purchase from the APUS Bookstore in a VitalSource e-book format

Author:

Publication Info:

ISBN: GRAD NOTE

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework in the Psychology Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, we understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact your instructor before the due date so you can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments. Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc.) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc.). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, you are strongly discouraged from waiting until the due date to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree", even if wordy and thus, meets the length requirement, is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each other as colleagues. Hateful, aggressive, or hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies

will not be tolerated.

- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.

Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your assessments.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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