

Cognition: Fundamental Theories (PSYC 20A)
Summer Session 2, 2018

Class Meetings: July 31- August 30

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4:30 pm
Physical Sciences, Room 114

Instructor: Julia Soares, M.S.

Office hours: Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 pm or by appointment
Office Location: Social Sciences 2, Room 305
Contact: jusoares@ucsc.edu

TA: Chris Kay

Office hours: Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm or by appointment
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What are office hours for?

Please come see us if you have any questions about the material. We are happy to meet and answer any questions you might have about cognitive psychology, the course, or psychological research. Please don't wait until you're panicking about the course to come to me for help! Office hours are for reviewing material, asking questions, or just coming to say hi and pay us a visit. We're both PhD students and cognitive psychology researchers, so if you have questions about research and/or grad school, we're here to help!

Course Description:

People have been asking questions about human cognition for about as long as humans have been able to cognate. Psychology 20A is designed to survey the major areas of study in cognitive psychology and cognitive science. Foundational theories will be discussed, but we will also connect with modern research. This course is intended to briefly examine a broad range of topics to inform your choice of upper-division cognitive courses and/or research labs, pique your interest in the study of cognition, and make you a more critical consumer of research.

Textbook and Course Requirements:

We will be using **Canvas** to post slides and other materials, homework assignments, and grades. Please make sure you have a working login and can access the site. Slides will be uploaded typically within a day of any given lecture. Please note that slides are made available only for your personal use and should not be sold or shared for commercial purposes.

Textbook:

The course has a textbook: Cognition (9th edition) by Margaret W. Matlin and Thomas A. Farmer, ISBN: 978-1118983287. Learning in multiple ways is usually most effective, and it's always useful to hear from multiple perspectives.

Evaluation:

Learning Checks (8, 1 dropped) (10%)

Short online quizzes will be administered during each lecture to help you assess your understanding of the course material and get used to the type of questions you will be asked on your exams. The questions will be administered in class, and scored based on participation. Your lowest learning check grade will be dropped, so if you must miss class one day, your grade will not be lowered. As such, no make-up learning checks will be administered.

Papers (30%)

Assignment descriptions and rubrics are posted on Canvas. These assignments will be due for submission on Canvas at 11:59 pm on the Friday of Weeks 2 and 4. Papers should be submitted in .docx or .pdf format. Late papers will only be accepted within 24-hours of the due date and will be docked 15%. If you have issues with Canvas, email me or your TA **on or before** the deadline to avoid a late penalty.

Examinations (2) (60%)

You will be given 2 exams, each worth 30% of your final grade. The exams will be multiple-choice format. You will be given 2 hours of the class time to complete the exam.

(see the final section of the syllabus for information about **extra credit**, which can add up to 3% to your final grade)

Calculation of grades

The above components make up the final grade in the following manner. First, the average of each component is calculated, and you are assigned that number of points based on the weight of each component. The weighted average of the grade points from the three components determines your final grade.

Please note that the Psychology Department requires at least a C in PSYC 20A for it to count towards the Cognitive Science major. For more information, contact psychology advising: psyadv@ucsc.edu.

Scores to Letter Grades:

100 to 97.5 percent	4.0 A+
97.4 to 92.5 percent	3.7 A
92.4 to 90.0 percent	3.4 A-
89.9 to 87.5 percent	3.2 B+
87.4 to 82.5 percent	3.0 B
82.4 to 80.0 percent	2.7 B-
79.9 to 77.5 percent	2.3 C+
77.4 to 70.0 percent	2.0 C
69.9 to 68.5 percent	1.7 C-
68.4 to 67.5 percent	1.3 D+
67.4 to 60.0 percent	1.0 D
Less than 60 percent	0.0 F

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Topic	Textbook Reading	Required Additional Reading
7/31 Tue Week 1	Introduction/Background, Methods, Cognitive Neuroscience, Using a Database, 4 E's Cognition	Chapter 1	
8/2 Thurs Week 1	Perception: Visual, Other senses, Higher-Order	Chapter 2	Winawer et al., 2007
8/7 Tue Week 2	Attention, Working Memory	Chapter 3 & 4	*McGowan, 2014
8/9 Thurs Week 2	Long-Term Memory, Metacognition Friday 8/10: Paper 1 due	Chapter 5 & 6	Mazzoni & Memon, 2002
8/14 Tue Week 3	Exam 1		
8/16 Thurs Week 3	Language: Reading, Perception, Production/Errors, Communication	Chapter 9 & 10	McGlone & Tofighbakhsh, 2000
8/21 Tue Week 4	Knowledge, Reasoning, Decision-Making	Chapter 8 & 12	Di Salvo, 2016*
8/23 Thurs Week 4	Mental Imagery, Problem-Solving, & Creativity Friday 8/24: Paper 2 Due	Chapter 7 & 11	Leung et al., 2011
8/28 Tue Week 5	Cognitive Development, Hot Topics	Chapter 13	
8/30 Thurs Week 5	Exam 2		

Popular Press Articles:

*DiSalvo, 2016: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/neuronarrative/201608/is-how-we-make-our-worst-decisions>

*McGowan, 2014: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/201401/meet-the-super-taskers>

The remaining journal articles are posted on Canvas! Reading journal articles is hard, but try your best. We'll discuss them in class the day that they're due.

Additional Information:

Students with Disabilities:

Any student who thinks they may need accommodation should contact me privately to submit their Accommodation Authorization and discuss specific needs as soon as

possible. Even if you have accommodations through DRC but don't always use or aren't sure if you want to use them, please submit your forms regardless just so you have the accommodations you're entitled to if you choose to use them. Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 831-459-2089 in room 146 Hahn Student Services or by e-mail at drc@ucsc.edu to coordinate the accommodations.

Distribution of Lecture Notes:

Students will be disciplined for selling or distributing course notes for any commercial purpose, whether or not they are the person taking the notes. The unauthorized sale of lecture notes or class materials is a violation of campus policies, state law, and may also constitute copyright infringement subject to legal action.

Academic Integrity:

All of the work you submit for use in this course must be completely your own and produced exclusively for this class. Use of any sources should be cited properly. Refer to the library guide here for more information about source citation and plagiarism:

<http://library.ucsc.edu/science/instruction/CitingSources.pdf>

For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the student guide available here:

http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students

Violations will be taken seriously; if you have any questions about if something constitutes academic dishonesty, please contact me.

Extra Credit:

Course Evaluation:

You will receive an extra 1% towards your final grade if 80% or more of the class completes an online course evaluation by the end of the course. You will be emailed your course evaluation at your UCSC email address. Please complete the course evaluation with honest feedback about the course. I hope to teach this course again in the future and your feedback will help me improve, keep what works, and change what doesn't. Your evaluations are anonymous. Course evaluations must be completed by 11:59 pm on Friday, August 31, 2018

Research Participation:

You can complete up to 4 hours of research credit for up to 2% towards your final grade. Research hours are not the same as research studies. Studies are worth different numbers of credit-hours, so make sure you complete 4 hours of research for the full 2 points. The number of points you get will be the number of hours you complete divided by two (so, if you complete 1.5 hours, you'll get .75% added to your final grade). If you are under the age of 18 or choose not to participate in research, you can complete an alternative assignment (details below). See below for more information about completing research hours.

Research Participation

Students can earn up to four extra credit points by completing research hours (or alternative assignments) by 5pm on Friday, August 31, 2018.

Follow these easy steps to sign-up for research projects:

- 1) Go to the E-Link website at <https://ucsc.sona-systems.com>
- 2) If you are enrolled in the class at the start of the quarter, then an account should already be created for you. To log in for the first time, click “Forgot Password?” to retrieve the pre-set password. For those who added the class late, or for some reason the system won’t let you log in, you may need to click “Request Account.” Only request a new account if the “Forgot Password” link isn’t working.
- 3) Always enter your UCSC email address. You will receive your password via email.
- 4) Log in and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: You can earn extra-credit points by either participating in studies (surveys or experiments) or writing papers (the alternative assignment). Studies are posted throughout the quarter. Plan ahead and complete them as soon as possible. Check online often for new studies. If you know you cannot make it, and if the time until the study is more than 24 hours, you can cancel on E-link. If you fail to show up for a study, or fail to cancel in time, you will be marked as having an “unexcused no-show.” If you accumulate three unexcused no-shows you will be prevented from signing up for more experiments. All participation must be completed by 5pm on the Friday of the last week of instruction. Do not wait until the last week to sign up.

What if you can’t find studies? Although some studies may be available right at the start of the quarter, there may not be enough for everyone. Please be patient, researchers will post new studies throughout the quarter. There is usually a big spike in hours during the last couple weeks. If you are concerned about the availability of hours, please don’t email your instructors or TAs, instead email the pool administrator so that they can try to address the issue directly (ucscresearchpool@gmail.com). This is also the best email to use if other issues arise during the quarter. If you participated in a study but didn’t receive credit after two days, please start by emailing the researchers directly. If the researchers don’t respond then send an email to the pool administrator. Rest assured, however, that all pending timeslots will be given credit at the end of the quarter before a report is sent to your professor.

Alternative assignment: If you prefer to not participate in research studies (or if you are under the age of 18) you may substitute up to 2 papers, each critically evaluating a psychology research article. If you are doing the alternative written assignments, they must be emailed directly to your instructor or TA by the last day of instruction. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the research pool administrator at ucscresearchpool@gmail.com.

Each paper should be approximately 2 pages (double spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman) and critically evaluate a psychology research article (addressing the questions shown below). You will need to find articles published in 2015-2018 in one of the following journals: (a) *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*; (b) *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*; (c) *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition*; (d) *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition* (e) *Cognition* (f) *Cognitive Psychology*

- 1) What were the basic questions or hypotheses under investigation?
- 2) How did the researchers test their hypotheses?
- 3) What did the researchers find and how were these findings interpreted?
- 4) Are you convinced? Why or why not? Explain.