

Cognition

PSYC 135

Summer 2025 Section 01 In Person 3 Unit(s) 06/02/2025 to 08/08/2025 Modified 05/29/2025

Contact Information

Instructor:	Evan M. Palmer, Ph.D.
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Drop-In Hours:	Tues 2:00 pm, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tues / Thurs 3:00 - 5:25 pm
Classroom:	CL 111

Course Information

The field of cognitive psychology attempts to answer the question “How does the mind work?” by examining its information processing capabilities and limitations. Through laboratory experiments, theorizing, and computational modeling, cognitive psychology illuminates mental activities such as perception, memory, attention, mental imagery, thinking, reasoning, problem solving, decision making, and language.

Course Description and Requisites

The activity of knowing: acquisition, organization and use of knowledge. Processes involved in that activity, including perception, memory, thinking and language.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

Classroom Protocol

I intend to foster an inclusive learning environment in which people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives are recognized, respected, and seen as a source of strength. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity with regard to gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions on how I can make this course more equitable and inclusive to all forms of diversity are encouraged and appreciated.

All students are expected to exhibit professionalism and respect for each other and the instructor. Specifically, this means arriving to class on time, being prepared for class, participating in discussions, being civil to your fellow classmates and instructor, and paying attention to in-class demonstrations and lectures. If you arrive late to class or need to leave early from class, please sit near the door so as not to disturb the rest of the class. Please silence and put away cell phones during class. If I see that you are using your cell phone during lecture, I will ask you to put it away. Repeated violations of the cell phone policy may result in further disciplinary action. You may record lectures only if you obtain my permission first, and such recordings are only to be used for personal study and may not be posted online. All classroom materials, including quizzes, exams, study guides, and slide decks are my intellectual property and may not be shared, posted, or otherwise distributed without my written consent.

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate any forms of academic dishonesty in my courses. I take issues of academic dishonesty very seriously and pursue disciplinary action rigorously, so please take extra care to avoid this sort of unpleasant situation.

Any instances of cheating on exams results in an automatic 0 for the exam.

Plagiarized assignments automatically receive a score of 0.

Plagiarism refers to using materials that you did not create (i.e., published works, work of other students, material created by artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT) and submitting it as your own creation without proper citation/attribution. When in doubt, remember this rule: All assignments in this course must be your own work and you must properly cite any resources that were used. Written assignments will be checked by TurnItIn and may be submitted to AI detection tools, as well.

I reserve the right to fail a student in the course if the academic dishonesty transgression is particularly severe.

All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development (SCED). Students may appeal any accusations of cheating or plagiarism to SCED.

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
 2. Research Methods in Psychology. Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
 3. Critical Thinking Skills. Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
 4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
- Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

- PLO1. *Knowledge Base of Psychology*: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
 - CLO1. Demonstrate knowledge of the different components of cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, and decision making
 - CLO2. Identify the cognitive mechanisms that underlie behavior
- PLO2. *Research Methods in Psychology*: Students will understand basic methodological approaches used in psychology, including research design, analysis, and interpretation.
 - CLO3. Describe different research methods used in cognitive psychology research
 - CLO4. Infer appropriate conclusions from cognitive psychology research
 - CLO5. Communicate findings and implications from cognitive psychology research
- PLO3. *Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology*: Students will understand and be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
 - CLO6. Synthesize evidence in favor of arguments pertaining to debates in cognitive psychology
 - CLO7. Evaluate and criticize arguments pertaining to issues in cognitive psychology
- PLO4. *Application of Psychology*: Students will understand and be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
 - CLO8. Articulate how concepts in cognitive psychology apply to their everyday lives
- PLO5. *Values in Psychology*: Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.
 - CLO9. Respect the relative nature of empirical evidence
 - CLO10. Recognize the value of intellectual curiosity and skepticism

Course Materials

Textbook: *Cognitive Psychology and its Implications (9th Ed.)* by John R. Anderson (ISBN13: 9781319106959).

[Note: 8th Edition (ISBN: 1464148910) is OK too.]

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

Chapter Quizzes: There will be a 10-question quiz covering each chapter of the textbook, administered on Canvas after the lectures for the chapter have concluded. These quizzes are intended to be completed without referencing your book or notes! You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz, so make sure to study before starting. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Exams: Exam 1 will be given on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 in class, and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 1-3. Exam 2 will be given on Thursday, July 10, 2025 in class and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 5-7. Exam 3 will be given on Thursday, August 7, 2025 in class and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 8-9, and 11-12. All exams will require a skinny green scantron sheet (form 882-E).

Make-Up Policy: Exams can be made-up but only if 1) I am contacted ahead of time, and/or 2) there are extraordinary circumstances (e.g., family death, accident, severe illness) that caused you to miss the regularly scheduled exam. Extraordinary circumstances require documentation.

Late Assignment Policy: All assignments will be penalized 1% for every hour they are late. If something comes up and you know that you will be late submitting an assignment, contact me before the assignment is due, and I will be able to give you an extension. If I am not contacted before the assignment is due, the normal late penalty will apply.

Review and Preparation Activities: In addition to engagement with the learning environment of the classroom, you will be required to independently prepare yourself for future classes by various out of class review and preparation activities. The university definition of a credit hour suggests that “Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

✓ Grading Information

Grade Breakdown:

25%	Chapter Quizzes – 8 best scores on 10 Chapter Quizzes (lowest grade dropped)
75%	3 Exams (25% each) + Second Chance Points

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A+	96.50 – 100%
A	92.50 – 96.49%
A-	89.50 – 92.49%
B+	86.50 – 89.49%
B	82.50 – 86.59%
B-	79.50 – 82.49%
C+	76.50 – 79.49%
C	72.50 – 76.49%
C-	69.50 – 72.49%
D+	66.50 – 69.49%
D	62.50 – 66.49%
D-	59.50 – 62.49%
F	≤ 59.49%

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance,

counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topic	Textbook Ch.	Assignment
Tues	6/3/25	The Science of Cognition	Ch. 1	
Thurs	6/5/25	Perception	Ch. 2	
Mon	6/9/25			Ch. 1 Quiz Due
Tues	6/10/25	Perception Attention	Ch. 2 Ch. 3	
Thurs	6/12/25	Attention	Ch. 3	
Mon	6/16/25			Ch. 2 Quiz Due
Tues	6/17/25	Catch-Up & Review	Chs. 1-3	
Thurs	6/19/25	NO CLASS - HOLIDAY		
Mon	6/23/25			Ch. 3 Quiz Due
Tues	6/24/25	Exam 1 - MC & Short Answer	Chs. 1-3	Exam 1
Thurs	6/26/25	Knowledge Representation	Ch. 5	
Mon	6/30/25			Ch. 5 Quiz Due
Tues	7/1/25	Memory: Encoding & Storage	Ch. 6	
Thurs	7/3/25	Memory: Encoding & Storage Memory: Retention & Retrieval	Ch. 6 Ch. 7	
Mon	7/7/25			Ch. 6 Quiz Due
Tues	7/8/25	Memory: Retention & Retrieval Catch-Up & Review	Ch 7. Chs. 5-7	
Wed	7/9/25			Ch. 7 Quiz Due

Thurs	7/10/25	Exam 2 - MC & Short Answer	Chs. 5-7	Exam 2
Tues	7/15/25	NO CLASS - RECORDED LECTURE Problem Solving	Ch. 8	
Thurs	7/17/25	NO CLASS - RECORDED LECTURE Problem Solving	Ch. 8	
Tues	7/22/25	Expertise	Ch. 9	
Wed	7/23/25			Ch. 8 Quiz Due
Thurs	7/24/25	Expertise Judgment and Decision Making	Ch. 9 Ch. 11	
Mon	7/28/25			Ch. 9 Quiz Due
Tues	7/29/25	Judgment and Decision Making Language Structure	Ch. 11 Ch. 12	
Wed	7/30/25			Ch. 11 Quiz Due
Thurs	7/31/25	Language Structure	Ch. 12	
Mon	8/4/25			Ch. 12 Quiz Due
Tues	8/5/25	Catch-Up & Review	Chs. 8-9, 11-12	
Thurs	8/7/25	Exam 3 - MC & Short Answer	Chs. 8-9, 11-12	Exam 3