

Course Syllabus

Cognitive Psychology (PSY 207) Fall 2007 Lecture: MW 2:30-3:45 pm -- FHF 536

University of Miami
Department of Psychology

Instructor: Matthias Siemer, Ph.D.
Office Hours: Mon 12:30– 2:00 pm, Wed 10:00 – 11:30 am, or by appointment
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Required Textbook

Matlin M. W. (2005). *Cognition* (6th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Course Description

This course examines cognitive processes, sometimes called "higher mental processes." Cognitive psychology includes topics such as perception, memory, language, and thinking. In addition to providing an overall understanding of these topics, this course will examine the research methodology and theoretical frameworks used to study cognitive abilities, how these abilities can be applied to everyday life, and current issues in the field of cognitive psychology.

Course Objectives

1. An appreciation of the basic information in cognitive psychology, including both research and theory, as well as an understanding of the complexity of cognitive processes;
2. An understanding of research methods in cognitive psychology, together with the ability to evaluate critically the research in this area;
3. An ability to apply your knowledge to your own cognitive processes (for example, when you study for exams and when you solve problems) and to professional areas such as education, communicative disorders, law, clinical psychology, and social relationships.

Exams (400 points total) There will be two examinations, on September 26 and November 7 (worth 100 points), and a comprehensive final on December 7 (worth 200 points). Examinations will cover the content of the textbook AND additional material presented during the lecture.

Course Requirements and Assessment

You will receive only one grade for the entire course. Your course grade is based on the exams. Grades are posted on the course website on Blackboard, to which all registered students have access. This is done as a convenience only, and you should note that point totals on the website *may not* be accurate. Therefore, it is your responsibility to keep track of your own grades, and to address any grade discrepancies as soon as possible. No bonus points are available in this course.

Grades

A+ = 96 – 100%	B+ = 85 – 87.99%	C+ = 75 – 77.99%	D = 58 – 67.99%
A = 92 - 95.99%	B = 81 – 84.99%	C = 71 – 74.99%	F = below 58%
A- = 88 – 91.99%	B- = 78 – 80.99%	C- = 68 – 70.99%	

Other Information

Office Hours: If you would like additional assistance in order to achieve the goals of this course, I am happy to meet with you during my office hours (see top of syllabus). If these times are inconvenient for you, please see me about scheduling an appointment at a mutually convenient time. If you need to contact me, my phone number and email are listed at the top of the syllabus. *If you are struggling in this course for any reason*, please contact me immediately – do not wait until the end of the semester because it may be too late.

Policy on Academic Integrity: Students are expected to abide by the terms of the University of Miami Honor Code. One of the primary purposes of this class is to teach you about becoming both a scientifically-sound and ethically-principled researcher. As such, we treat any instances of academic dishonesty very seriously. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on exams or assignments, plagiarizing written work, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. Any violation of the honor code will result in a course grade of F. For further information on the University of Miami Honor Code, please go to http://www6.miami.edu/UMH/CDA/UMH_Main/0,1770,2618-1;12148-3,00.html

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities should inform Dr. Siemer of their needs at the *beginning of the semester*. Students should contact Disability Services in the Academic Development Center, N201, Whitten University Center, for an evaluation, then make an appointment to see me so we can work together to determine and implement appropriate academic accommodations.

Excusable Absences: Absences from exams are only considered excusable under the following circumstances: illness of the student; religious observance (where the nature of the observance prevents the student from being present during the class period); participation in university activities at the request of University authorities; and compelling circumstance beyond the student's control. Students claiming excused absence must apply in writing and furnish documentary support for their assertion that absence resulted from one of these causes.

Make-up Exam Policy: Make-up exams will only be given in cases of a documented illness or emergency, or if you must represent the College at an athletic or scholastic event. In either case, permission to miss the exam must be obtained from me PRIOR to the scheduled exam, AND written documentation from the appropriate authority (e.g., doctor, coach, etc.) must be provided before you will be permitted to take the make-up exam.

Religious Observances: Students are responsible for informing the instructor at the *beginning of the semester* if they anticipate any absences for religious observances. Students will not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs and students will be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTER
Aug 22	Introduction	1
Aug 27	Introduction (cont)	1
Aug 29	Pattern Perception	2
Sept 5	Pattern Perception (cont)	2
Sept 10	Attention	3
Sept 12	Attention (cont)	3
Sept 17	Working Memory	4
Sept 19	Working Memory (cont)	4
Sept 24	Open for Review Exam 1	
Sept 26	Exam on Ch 1-4	
Oct 1	Long Term Memory	5
Oct 3	Long Term Memory (cont)	5
Oct 8	Strategies and Metacognition	6
Oct 10	Strategies and Metacognition	6
Oct 15	Imagery	7
Oct 17	Imagery (cont)	7
Oct 22	General Knowledge	8
Oct 24	General Knowledge (cont)	8
Oct 19	Language: Introduction and Language Comprehension	9
Oct 31	Language: Introduction and Language Comprehension	9
Nov 5	Open for Review Exam 2	
Nov 7	Exam on Ch 5-9	

Nov 12	Language: Production and Bilingualism	10
Nov 14	Problem Solving and Creativity	11
Nov 19	Problem Solving and Creativity	11
Nov 21	Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making	12
Nov 26	Deductive Reasoning and Decision Making	12
Nov 28	Open for Review Final Exam	

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2:00-4:30 pm, COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM on all lectures and Chapters 1 -12