

Higher Mental Processes (Psychology 5313-01)
T/TH 2:00-3:20
FALL 2011, LS 428

Instructor: Heekyeong Park, Ph.D.
Office: LS 408 (x21063)
Office Hours: 1:00 – 2:00pm T/TH or by appointment
Email: hkpark_AT_uta_DOT_edu
Department website: <http://www.uta.edu/psychology/>

Course Description: This course will focus upon core topics in cognitive psychology. This course will be a combination of lecture and presentation/discussion format. The instructor will provide an overview of a topic and one or two students will present assigned articles each class. The list of articles will be provided for each topic. Students who are not presenting will be required to submit a question or a relevant discussion item via Blackboard by a day prior to the presentation to promote discussion.

Course Learning Goals and Objectives: The course aims to study the mind's complex cognitive processes from an interdisciplinary perspective. The goal is to provide a broad introduction of the topics in cognitive psychology that will serve as a foundation for further investigation of specific topics in depth as they become relevant to one's field.

Course Business Communication: All course announcements and updates of schedule will be communicated via Blackboard.

Attendance & Drop Policy: Attendance is required for this course. The drop policy is as established by University policy (see below).

Course Requirements:

Students are required to submit two research proposals, to present two class presentations (based on assigned readings), to participate in class discussion, and to take two examinations (midterm, final). Students are expected to attend class, to complete the weekly readings before class and to prepare questions (via blackboard) and to ask questions during class.

Course Assessments:

Research Proposals (20%): Students are required to propose two novel research ideas, based on topics/articles that are covered in the course, and submit the proposals until the date of final exam (no more than one in a month). The two proposals should be based on different topics and they must be students' own ideas (thorough literature search is necessary). Follow APA format including Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion.

Presentation/Discussion (20%): Two presentations (30m) for the assigned articles and participation in discussion (including the questions for discussion) will be evaluated. Should you want to present other material, you may do so with the instructor's permission.

Exams (60%): There will be two non-cumulative, in-class essay exams allowing the students to demonstrate his or her ability to understand and integrate the concepts discussed. The exam will cover material from discussions, lectures, guest speakers, assignments, presentations, and all readings.

Missed exams and presentations will be accorded a grade of zero unless the student submits a valid written excuse recognized by the university's rules. There will be no makeup exams or presentations. The final grade will be calculated based on the sum scores of research proposals, presentation/discussion, and exams.

Required Textbook:

Reisberg, D. (2010). *Cognition: Exploring the science of the mind* (4th ed). New York, NY: WW Norton & Company.

Supplementary Textbook:

Goldstein, E.B. (2011). *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting mind, research, and everyday experience* (3rd ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Other Information

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) “cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week.

Tentative Schedule*

Week	Topic	Material
8/25	Introduction; Course overview	
8/30	Cognitive Psychology/ Cognitive Neuroscience	R. Chap 1, 2
9/06	Perception	R.. Chap 3 ; Presentation
9/13	Attention	R. Chap 4 ; Presentation
9/20	STM & Working memory	R. Chap 5 ; Presentation
9/27	LTM: structure	R. Chap 6 ; Presentation
10/04	LTM: encoding & retrieval	R. Chap 6 ; Presentation
10/11	Memory errors	R. Chap 7 ; Presentation
10/18	Knowledge Midterm Exam	R. Chap 8 ; Presentation
10/25	Knowledge	R. Chap 9 ; Presentation
11/01	Visual imagery	R. Chap 11 ; Presentation
11/08	Decision making	R. Chap 12 ; Presentation
11/15	Reasoning	R. Chap 13 ; Presentation
11/22	Problem solving Holiday	R. Chap 14 ; Presentation
11/29	Problem solving	R. Chap 14 ; Presentation
12/06	Consciousness	R. Chap 15 ; Presentation

*Exam and lecture content dates are tentative and subject to shift according to the needs of an individual class.