1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Cognitive theorists face a unique problem: the understanding of mental structures and processes that are not directly observable. A variety of methods used to address this problem will be surveyed, by introducing research questions of enduring interest. Students will be expected to use the techniques learned. Cognitive domains to be examined include attention, memory, problem-solving, and thinking.

Prerequisites: Registration in third or fourth year Honours Specialization in Psychology and one of: Psychology 205A/B, 215A/B, 234A/B, 235A/B

Other Psychology Majors and Special Students who receive 70% in the prerequisite courses and 70% in Psychology 282E (or 70% in each of Psychology 280E and 281) may enrol.

2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours, 0.5 course

Note: Third or fourth year Honours Psychology Students who receive a passing grade any of the prerequisite courses and 70% in Psychology 282E (if taken in place of Psychology 280E and Psychology 281) may enrol in this course. Psychology and Special Students who receive 70% in the prerequisite courses or 70% in the prerequisite courses and 70% in Psychology 282E (if taken in place of Psychology 280E and Psychology 281) may enrol in this course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2.0 COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Brown
Office and phone number: SSC 7328 / 84680
Office Hours: Wednesday 2 – 3 and by appointment
Teaching assistant(s): Jeff Shaw
Office and phone number: See lab outline
Office hours: See lab outline
Time and location of lab: Monday 4:30 – 6:30 SSC 8440
Time and location of lecture: Wednesday 4:30 – 6:30 SSC 8440

3.0 TEXTBOOK

There will be no textbook for this course. We shall read articles from the scientific literature, as listed below.
4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should have:
- Knowledge of the fundamental concepts in human cognition.
- Extensive exposure to human cognition research paradigms.
- Hands-on experience in designing research projects (including one experiment), data collection and analysis, and preparing research reports on human experimental research.

5.0 EVALUATION

The course is divided into two parts, seminar meetings and labs. 50% of the course grade will be based on work in each half. Details of requirements for the lab will be given in the first lab meeting.

Grades for the seminar will be based on two exams – a midterm and a final. The midterm will cover papers taken up in the first half of the course, and the final will cover papers taken up in the second half of the course. The midterm exam will be in-class. The final exam will be take-home. Both exams will contain a set of essay questions from which each student will select one to answer. Exams answers must be in essay format. Final exam answers should be emailed to the instructor by the deadline (see Section 6.0 below), in Word format. (Do not use WordPerfect or any other software.) Any student who fails to turn in a final exam paper by the deadline will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for the final exam.

6.0 TEST AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The Midterm Exam will be held in class on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. Questions will be posted on the course WebCT site one week in advance. The Final Exam is a take-home exam. Final Exam questions will be posted on the course WebCT site on Thursday, April 10, 2008. Answers must be given to the instructor by 5:00 pm Monday, April 22, 2008. Late papers will not be accepted except by prior arrangement.

7.0 LECTURE SCHEDULE

Most readings are available through the UWO Library and Psycinfo. Those that are not available that way can be obtained from the instructor. For some weeks, extra readings are listed that you might find useful in preparing for the exams.

Week 1


Week 2


Week 3


Week 4


Week 5


Week 6


Week 7

Mid-term exam (in class)

Week 8


Week 9


Week 10


Week 11


Week 12


8.0 STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

9.0 OTHER INFORMATION

Office of the Registrar web site: [http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca)

Student Development Services web site: [http://www.sdc.uwo.ca](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca)

Please see the Psychology Undergraduate web site for information on the following:

[http://psychology.uwo.ca/newundergradstudentresp.htm](http://psychology.uwo.ca/newundergradstudentresp.htm)

- Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct
- Procedures for Appealing Academic Evaluations
- Policy on Attendance
- Policy Regarding Makeup Exams and Extensions of Deadlines
- Policy for Assignments
- Short Absences
- Extended Absences
No electronic devices, including cell phones, will be allowed during exams.