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 or Honours Specialization in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience and one of: Psychology 2115A/B (215A/B), 2134A/B (234A/B) or 2135A/B (235A/B) or 2210A/B (205A/B). Other Psychology Majors and Special Students who receive 70% in the prerequisite courses and 70% in Psychology 2820E (282E) [or 70% in each of Psychology 2800E (280E) and 2810 (281)] may enrol.
2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours, 0.5 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 / Ext. 84680
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2 – 3 pm
Email: mailto:brown5@uwo.ca
Teaching Assistant: Sarah Devantier
Office: SSC 7315
Office Hours: TBA
Email: sdevanti@uwo.ca

Time and Location of Lectures: Wednesdays 4:30 – 6:30 SSC 3120
Time and Location of Labs: Mondays 4:30 – 6:30 SSC 4103

3.0 TEXTBOOK
There is no textbook for this course. In lieu of a text, we'll read papers from the recent scientific literature in cognitive psychology, 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 Psychology Department follows the University of Western Ontario grading guidelines, which are as follows (see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/grades_undergrad.pdf):

- **A+ 90-100**: One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- **A 80-89**: Superior work that is clearly above average
- **B 70-79**: Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- **C 60-69**: Competent work, meeting requirements
- **D 50-59**: Fair work, minimally acceptable
- **F below 50**: Fail

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. Each will be worth 25% of the final course grade. 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. The midterm will contain a combination of short answer and essay questions. The final exam will contain a set of essay questions from which students will each select one to answer in essay form. Final exam papers should be emailed to the instructor by the deadline (see Section 6.0 below) in Word or pdf format. (Do not use WordPerfect or any other software.) Any student who, other than by prior arrangement with the instructor, 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, October 28th, 2009. The final exam questions will be posted on the course WebCT site on Wednesday, December 9th, 2009. Exam papers must be submitted no later than 5 pm on Monday, December 21st, 2009. Late papers will not be accepted.

7.0 LECTURE SCHEDULE

**September 23**


**September 30**

**October 7**


**October 14**
Fischer, M.H., Shaki, S., & Cruise, A. (2009). It takes just one word to quash a SNARC. *Experimental Psychology* 56 (5), 361–366. – NOTE: Dr. M.H. Fischer will give the Department Colloquium on Friday, November 27th at 3 pm in Somerville 3345.

**October 14** (continued)

**October 21**


**October 28**
Midterm exam in class – covers all lectures and readings to this point.

**November 4**


**November 11**

**November 18**


**November 25**

**December 2**


**December 9**

**8.0 STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES**

Students are responsible for understanding the nature and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other scholastic offenses. Plagiarism and cheating are considered very serious offenses because they undermine the integrity of research and education. Actions constituting a scholastic offense are described at the following link: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf)
As of Sept. 1, 2009, the Department of Psychology will take the following steps to detect scholastic offenses. All multiple-choice tests and exams will be checked for similarities in the pattern of responses using reliable software, and records will be made of student seating locations in all tests and exams. All written assignments will be submitted to TurnItIn, a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism by comparing written material to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn’s databases. 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).

Possible penalties for a scholastic offense include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

9.0 POLICY REGARDING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students planning to request an accommodation based on physical or learning disability are encouraged to discuss that accommodation directly with the instructor, during office hours or by appointment. Such students should read the relevant sections of the University’s Calendar, on Academic Rights and Responsibilities, available at this website:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2009/pg118.html

In particular, students’ attention is drawn to the section on The Responsibility of the Student, the first of which is to make a timely request for an accommodation. In this course, “timely” is defined in the following way: such a request from a student must be made within 30 days of the announcement of examination dates. A request which comes later than that will be considered to be not timely.

10.0 OTHER INFORMATION

Office of the Registrar web site: http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca

Student Development Services web site: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca

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

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
- Documentation
- Academic Concerns
- 2009 Calendar References

No electronic devices, including cell phones, will be allowed during exams.