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: Psychology 2800E, 2810 and one of Psychology 2115A/B, 2134A/B or 2135A, plus registration in third or fourth year Honours Specialization in Psychology or Honours Specialization in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. Third or fourth year Psychology Majors and Psychology Special Students who receive 70% or higher in Psychology 2820E (or 60% or higher in Psychology 2800E and 2810), plus 60% or higher in one of Psychology 2115A/B, 2134A/B or 2135A/B also may enrol in this course.
2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours, 0.5 course.

Unless you have either the prerequisites 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 / 661-2111 ext. 84680
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30 – 3:30
Email: brown5@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Hamad Alazary
Office: TBA
Office Hours: See lab outline
Email: halazary@uwo.ca

Time and location of Lab meetings: Monday 4:30 – 6:30 / SSC 3120
Time and location of Lectures: Wednesday 4:30 – 6:30 / SSC 3120
If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit: [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for more information on these resources and on mental health.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2111 ext 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

**3.0 TEXTBOOK**

In lieu of a textbook we shall read recent papers from the cognitive psychology literature, 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**

Although the Psychology Department does not require instructors to adjust their course grades to conform to specific targets, the expectation is that course marks will be distributed around the following averages:

- 70% 1000-level and 2000-level courses
- 72% 2100-2990 level courses
- 75% 3000-level courses
- 80% 4000-level courses

The Psychology Department follows Western grading guidelines, which are as follows (see [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_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
Final course grades will be based on two major components – lab grades and exam grades. The lab component, which will be described in detail in the lab outline, will be worth 50% of the final course grade. The other 50% will be based on two exams, a midterm and a final exam, each worth 25% of the final course grade. Both exams will feature a combination of short answer and essay questions.

6.0 TEST AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Midterm exam: Wednesday, March 4, in class.
Final exam: Scheduled by Registrar’s Office for a time during the final exam period (April 11 – 30).

7.0 LECTURE SCHEDULE

January 7
Introduction – no reading

Section 1 - Methods

January 14

January 21


January 28

February 4

February 11

February 18 – Reading week – no classes

Section 2 – Content

February 25

For background, read this short paper:

March 4 – Midterm exam in class. Exam will cover all readings & discussions for January 14 to February 11.

March 11

For background, read this short paper:

March 18
March 25

April 1

April 8

Final Exam – on a date set by Registrar’s Office, during the Final Exam period, April 11 – 30. Exam will cover all readings and discussions for February 25 to April 8.

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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.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 Western 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 OTHER INFORMATION

Office of the Registrar web site: http://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/undergradresponsibilities.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
- 2014 Calendar References

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