

PSYCHOLOGY 200-002H Cognitive Psychology Honors Section

Spring 2024 Syllabus
Department of Psychology

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Part 1: Course Information

Credit Hours: 3
Website: d2l.msu.edu

Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:40PM – 2:00PM in Snyder Hall Room C302.

*Dates for exams and assignments are listed in the schedule on Page 4 of this document. **Please add these dates to your calendar now, so you do not forget them.***

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Karl Healey
Preferred Pronouns: he, him, his
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00AM – noon (in-person only)
Office: Psychology Building Room 289C
Office Telephone: 517-432-3107
E-mail: khealey@msu.edu

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Assistant: Beau Zhang
Preferred Pronouns: he/him
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00PM – 4:00PM (Zoom or in person)
Zoom link for office hours: <https://msu.zoom.us/my/beau.zh>
In person: Psychology Building Room 213
Link to schedule an appointment outside office hours: <https://beauzhang.youcanbook.me/>
E-mail: zhangb42@msu.edu

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants

Assistant: Guia Bayot
Preferred Pronouns: she/her
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00PM (Zoom only)
Zoom link for office hours: <https://msu.zoom.us/my/gbayot>
E-mail: bayotgui@msu.edu

Assistant: Farah Daddo
Preferred Pronouns: she/her
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM (Zoom only)
Zoom link for office hours: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/95395233500>
E-mail: sabrifar@msu.edu

Assistant: Laura Lojacono
Preferred Pronouns: she/her
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 – 5:00pm (Zoom only)
Zoom link for office hours: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97597126709> password: help
E-mail: lojacono@msu.edu

Course Description and Instructional Objectives

This course is an introduction to the field of Cognitive Psychology and will provide an overview of its major theories, findings, and methods. Cognitive psychology views the mind as an information processing system and attempts to discover and explain the mental processes underlying perception, attention, memory, language, thinking, and decision making. The course will also introduce a number of different methods that are used to investigate brain processes and their functions. At the end of the course, you should be familiar with the main theories, methods, and findings of Cognitive Psychology.

Textbook & Course Materials

- The following textbook is helpful but not required: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: CONNECTING MIND, RESEARCH, AND EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE BY E. BRUCE GOLDSTEIN. Any edition from the last 5 years is acceptable.
- Several articles from scientific journals will be assigned over the semester. These will be posted as PDFs to the class D2L page.
- You will need to bring your laptop to class on days we are scheduled to work on the Honors Project (more detail on this below). We will be doing exercises that require a laptop with Internet access.

Getting Help – Office Hours and Email

The best way to get help is to attend office hours. The TA, UAs, and I hold regular office hours. If you can't make office hours, you can email us to make an appointment for a different time. If you are having problems or just want more information about the course material, come see us — Don't hesitate to take advantage of the office hours! Be sure to use your MSU account when trying to join a Zoom meeting as for security reasons our office hours are only accessible to MSU users.

Questions about class material can be very difficult to communicate and answer over email (it often requires visual aids) — **you can almost always get a much better answer in person.** **Therefore, we will not answer technical questions over email.** Don't hesitate to take advantage of the office hours!

If you have a non-technical question that requires only a short response, you can email the TA or a UA. We will try to be diligent about responding, but occasionally, your message may be hidden amongst the spam; if you don't hear back in a reasonable time, send the message again. If a TA is unable to answer your question, email me. For questions that require a longer response, please use office hours.

Part 2: Course Schedule

The schedule is tentative. I reserve the right to change it to best suit the course. Please mark the exam dates on your calendar now!

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
January 9	Introduction & History/Methods	1
January 11	Cog. Neuro	1
January 16	Cog. Neuro	2
January 18	Perception	3
January 23	Perception	3
January 25	Attention	4
January 30	Short-Term Memory	5
February 1	Exam 1	
February 6	Memory - Structure	6
February 8	Memory - Encoding & Retrieval	7
February 13	No Class	
February 15	Memory - Errors	8
February 20	Knowledge	9
February 22	Exam 2	
February 27	Spring Break	
February 29	Spring Break	
March 5	Honors Project	
March 7	Honors Project	
March 12	Honors Project	
March 14	Honors Project	
March 19	Honors Project	
March 21	Honors Project	
March 26	Honors Project	
March 28	Imagery	10
April 2	Imagery	10
April 4	Language	11
April 9	Problem Solving	12
April 11	Creativity	12
April 16	Judgment & Decision Making	13
April 18	Reasoning + Honors Reports Due	13
April 24	Exam 3	

Part 3: Grading Policy

You can earn up to 600 points from the following required assignments:

Graded Course Activities

The table below describes the graded course activities, including points and activity description. The first column includes the assignment type, the second column describes how many assignments of that type there are, the third column indicates how many points each assignment of that type is worth, and the fourth column indicates how many total points are possible for all of those assignments.

<i>Assignment Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Points Each</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
Lab Participation	10 labs	10 per lab	100
Honors Project Reports	4 questions	25 each	100
Experiment Participation	5 hours	5 per hour	25
Three Exams	Exam with the best score	150	
	Exam with the second-best score	125	
	Exam with the lowest score	100	
	Total for exams		375
<i>Course Total</i>			600

Exams

There will be three multiple-choice exams: two midterms and a non-cumulative final (dates are given on the previous page). They will test your knowledge of the material presented in lectures and any videos we watch. The three midterms are worth a total of 375 points: the one you score best on will be worth 150 points, the one you score second best on will be worth 125 points, and the one with your lowest score will be worth 100 points. **All exams will be administered in person in the classroom.**

Lab Participation

You can earn up to 100 points by completing labs (10 points per lab completed on time). These labs are online demonstrations of classic Cognitive Psychology experiments that are applicable to different course topics. Your completion of these labs will familiarize you with behavioral methods used to investigate human cognition and will help you better understand the lectures. Links to the labs will be provided on D2L *along with a due date*. For each lab, you will have to submit a form on D2L to prove you completed the lab *before the due date*. Details on how to do so will be posted to D2L. Most of the labs will include brief *ungraded* questions that allow you to assess your own understanding of the material. For each lab you complete, you will receive 10 points. Even though you are required to complete only 10 labs, there will be at least 11 labs posted to D2L over the semester. **If you complete all 11 (i.e., one more than the required 10), you will earn 10 bonus points.**

Honors Project Reports

The textbook and the lectures introduce the many sub-areas within Cognitive Psychology. But, by necessity, they simplify those areas by eliminating detail. When you read the primary scientific literature in any area, you quickly find that things are *vastly* more complex than can be presented in a textbook. In the Honors Project, we will explore this complexity for one specific area: the distinction between short-term memory and long-term memory. Your textbook presents this model of memory as a simple flow chart (sensory memory → short-term memory → long-term memory). In the literature, this theory is presented as a set of equations and computer simulations. You will read two classic papers. In class, we will discuss them and learn how to program the model in Python. That is, we will take the flow chart and turn it into a working computer simulation. There are 3.5 weeks devoted to this project in the class schedule.

After the final week of the project, you will have to submit a structured report on the project. The report will take the form of answering four questions posted to D2L. Some questions will ask you to write summaries of our discussions of the readings; others will ask you to add comments to the computer code we wrote in class to show you understand how it works. **The report is due by the end of class on April 27.** Doing well on the report will be challenging but eminently achievable for anyone who has attended class and thought carefully about the topics. Each question will be graded on the following scale: 0 (did not turn in), 10 (turned in but it is clear you did not put in the effort to understand the material), 25 (you gave a thoughtful response). I expect the modal score will be 25 per question. If you get less, please take the initiative to come to office hours to discuss how you can improve (I may even give second chances to those who do). By the end of the project, you will know the difference between a textbook version of a Cognitive Psychology theory and the real thing.

Experiment Participation (HPR/Sona)

Part of this course is participation in research. You will receive 5 points for every hour of research participation, up to a total of 25 points. For example, if you do 3.5 hours, you will get $3.5 \times 5 = 17.5$ points. Details on how to create your Sona account are available under the “Sona Setup” link on D2L. Be careful: some experiments posted on Sona compensate with money, not course credit! For all questions about research participation, please contact the Research Participation Coordinator (Ms. Audra Jeffrey: jeffre22@msu.edu).

If you are under 18 years old and, therefore, cannot participate in research, you can perform an alternative assignment. For details on this assignment, please contact the TA. If you do not wish to participate in research for any other reason but would still like to get the points, then you can contact the TA to learn about an alternative assignment.

Make Up Exams

You may take a makeup exam in case of (1) a documented medical emergency or (2) a legitimate schedule conflict, such as a religious holiday or sports travel, that you inform us of at least 1 week in advance. **In either case, please send *the TA* an email (see above for email address) identifying the emergency or conflict as soon as possible.** In those cases, you may take the exam either at another time on the normal exam day or sometime prior to the next course meeting. If you cannot take the exam on one of those days, then that exam will be omitted from your final score, and its points will be distributed over the other exams. If you miss an exam for any other reason or don't notify us about your emergency or conflict, your score will be a 0.

Extra Credit

There are two opportunities for extra credit – you can take advantage of either or both:

- 1) You may complete up to 2 bonus hours of HPR/Sona experiments in addition to any points you completed as part of the course's HPR/Sona requirement. Each bonus hour completed in this way will earn you 5 points, up to a total of 10 points. The same deadline applies as for the standard HPR/Sona experiments (see above). If you do not wish to participate in research or are under 18 and cannot participate, contact the TA to learn about an alternative extra credit assignment.
- 2) Even though you are required to complete only 10 labs, there will be at least 11 labs posted to D2L over the semester. If you complete all 11 (i.e., one more than the required 10), you will earn 10 bonus points.

Grade Assignment (Grading Scale)

Your final grade is based on the percentage of the 600 points you earn:

The table below describes the relationships between grades and percentage of total points. The first column describes the grade. The second column describes the percentage associated with that grade.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
4.0	90% and above
3.5	85 – 90%
3.0	80 – 84%
2.5	75 – 79%
2.0	70 – 74%
1.5	65 – 69%
1.0	60 – 64%
0.0	59% and below

Part 4: Course Policies

Academic Honesty

Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Psychology Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations 1.0](#), [Protection of Scholarship and Grades](#); the [all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](#); and [Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](#). See [Spartan Life Online](#) (splife.studentlife.msu.edu) and/or the [MSU Web site](#) (msu.edu) for more.

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity webpage](#).)

Limits to Confidentiality

Materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

If you require testing accommodations (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and present your VISA at least two weeks before the exam date to schedule an alternative exam. Typically, I will schedule for you to take the exam during a special exam session offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Tuesday at 5:00pm and Friday at 9:00am in Giltner 346. If you are unable to make either of those times, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two-week prior notification requirement.

Disruptive Behavior

Article 2.III.B.4 of Student Rights and Responsibilities for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with the functions, services, or directives of the University, its offices, or its employees (e.g., classes, social, cultural, and athletic events, computing services, registration, housing and food services, governance meetings, and hearings)." Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

Attendance

Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.