

Psychology 200- 01: Cognitive Psychology
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-9:50 am – Wells Hall B117

Instructor	Office	Office Hours	Contact
Prof- Dr.Mark W. Becker (He/Him)	Psych Building 285B	Mon 1-2pm and by apt.	becker54@msu.edu ; 432-3367
TA- Samantha Bowden (She/Her)	Zoom: https://msu.zoom.us/j/91073692147	Tues 10:30am – 11:30 or by apt.	bowdensa@msu.edu
UA – Cole Parker (He/Him)	Zoom: https://msu.zoom.us/j/99105063115 PassCode: 126937	Friday 10:45am – 11:45am	parke549@msu.edu
UA- Bode Schuitema (He/Him)	Right outside of class after class	Thurs 10-11 am	schuit31@msu.edu

Course Description & Objectives: This course is an introduction to the field of Cognitive Psychology and will provide an overview of the major theories, findings, and methods of the cognitive approach. 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.

Required Text: The official text is *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 5th Edition* by E. Bruce Goldstein, however you may also use the 3rd or 4th editions.

Website: I will maintain a course webpage on D2L. The website will have a syllabus, links to the labs, review sheets, and a course schedule. *After* each class, I will also post pdf's of the slides I used in class that day. The pdf's will be linked from the course schedule.

Getting Help: The best way to get help is to come to office hours. The TA, UAs, and I hold regular office hours (see times, modalities, and locations above). If you can't make office hours, you can email any of 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!

Email: When needed I will e-mail announcements to the class. I encourage you to regularly check your MSU e-mail account. If you have a question that requires only a short response, you can email the TA or UAs. They 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 the TAs and UAs are unable to answer your question email me. For questions that require a longer response please use office hours.

Exams: There will be three multiple choice exams: two midterms and a non-cumulative final exam. They will test your knowledge of the material presented in lecture, the readings, labs, and any videos we watch. Exams will occur in class.

Lab Participation: There will be at least 11 labs on the schedule. These are online experiments I developed to help you learn about the methods we use to investigate cognition, and to make the concepts we will be discussing in lecture more concrete. Most of the labs involve data collection, and provide you with your individual performance at the end of the tasks. I will also be showing group average data in class. Other labs are simply demonstrations. Most labs will also have some brief questions that you will need to answer. Labs have specific due dates on the syllabus because I want you to be familiar with them before I discuss them in class. You will need to complete at least 10 of the labs to earn all 40 points (i.e., you will receive 4 points for each completed lab up to the total of 40 points).

Subject Pool Participation (HPR/Sona): One way of learning firsthand about psychological research is to participate in research studies. Thus, 5% of your total grade for this course comes from participation in research. You will receive 1 point for every ½-hour of research participation up to a total of 10 points (5 hours of participation). The Sona System will close Friday December 8th @ 5 pm. You can register an account and sign up for studies here: <https://msu-psychology.sona-systems.com>. The "Sona Setup" link on the course website provides all of the information that you need to use the system. You can also watch a short, online tutorial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>.

It is your responsibility to sign up, participate in the experiments, and to track your credits. We won't receive record of your research participation until the end of the course. Any questions, inaccuracies, or problems should be directed to Audra Jeffrey in Psychology 100, jeffre22@msu.edu.

If you are under 18 years old, or you do not want to participate in research, you may write a paper in lieu of research participation. Detailed information about this paper is available on the course website under the "HPR Alternative" link. Note: Make sure that you are on the psychology Sona site. The Department of Communication Arts and Sciences also has a Sona site. We do not have access to this data and cannot grant participation credit for experiments done under the other site.

Make Up Exams: You may take a makeup exam only if you have (1) a documented medical emergency, or (2) a legitimate schedule conflict, such as a religious holiday or sports travel that you inform the professor about at least 1 week in advance. In either case, please send email to me 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 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 0.

If some other circumstance arises during the term that interferes with your ability to keep up in the course, please be aware that there is little that can be done to change a final grade once the term is over. If such a circumstance arises, please seek advice as soon as possible.

Extra-Credit: There are two (and only two) options for extra credit. You may do one (and only one) of these options.

- *Option 1:* You may do up to an additional 3 Hours of HPR/Sona Participation. For each additional ½ hour you will receive 1 additional point that will be added to your final course grade.
- *Option 2:* You may do an alternative to HPR participation paper (see handout describing paper). For a well done paper 6 points will be added to your final course grade.

Academic Honesty: The Spartan Code of Honor states, "As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do." In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities ([SRR](#)) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." 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](#).

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](#).)

Inclusive Environment. MSU is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive community in which students, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) reviews concerns related to discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, disability status, and any other protected categories under the University Anti-Discrimination Policy (https://www.hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/ADP_policy.html) and Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (<https://civilrights.msu.edu/policies/rvsm.html>). If you experience or witness acts of bias, discrimination, or harassment, please report these to OIE: <http://oie.msu.edu/>.

Limits to Confidentiality: Essays, journals, and other 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 MSU Police Department) 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: 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 may not be honored. If you require testing accommodations (e.g., additional time.) you must contact me and present your VISA *at least two weeks before the exam date* to schedule an alternative exam.

Disruptive Behavior: Article 2.III.B.4 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SRR\)](#) 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 of the [SRR](#) 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 . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action."

Grade Breakdown

<i>Item</i>	<i>Point</i>	<i>Percentage of Final Grade</i>
Midterm 1	50	25.00%
Midterm 2	50	25.00%
Final Exam	50	25.00%
Labs	40	20.00%
Subject Pool	10	5.00%
TOTAL	200 points	100%

Final Grade Scale

89.5% and above	4
86.5%-89.4%	3.5
79.5%-86.4%	3
76.5%-79.4%	2.5
69.5%-76.4%	2
66.5%-69.4%	1.5
59.5%-66.4%	1
Less than 59.5%	0

Schedule – Psy 200-001 - Cognitive Psychology – Fall Term 2023

Note: This schedule is tentative, and I reserve the right to make changes, however I will change the dates of the exams only under extraordinary circumstances.

Date	Topic	Readings*	Labs
8/29	Introduction to the course	Ch 1	
8/31	History	Ch 1	
9/5	Methods		
9/7	Cognitive Neuroscience 1	Ch 2 & pp. 83-86 *	Hemispheric Specialization
9/12	Cognitive Neuroscience 2	Ch 2	
9/14	Perception 1	Ch 3	Prototypes
9/19	Perception 2	Ch 3	Word Superiority
9/21	Object Recognition	Ch 3 & pdf	Stroop Effect
9/26	Attention 1	Ch 4	Attentional Blink
9/28	Attention 2	Ch4	Change Detection
10/3	Catch up & Review		PRP
10/5	Midterm 1		
10/10	Imagery	Ch 10	Mental Rotation
10/12	Memory 1	Ch 5	Digit Span
10/17	Memory 2	Ch 4	LOP
10/19	Memory 3	Ch 5	False Memory
10/24	Fall Break		
10/26	Special Topic: Memory & the law	Ch 6	
10/31	Catch up & Review		
11/2	Midterm 2		
11/7	Knowledge Representation	Ch 9	
11/9	Language 1	Ch 11	
11/14	Language 2	Ch 11	
11/16	Psychonomics - NO CLASS		
11/21	Problem solving 1	Ch 12	
11/23	Thanksgiving		
11/28	Decision Making 1	Ch 13	
11/30	Decision Making 2	Ch 13	
12/5	Cross Cultural Considerations		
12/7	Catch up & Review		

Final Exam Tuesday 12/12 7:45-9:45 AM Wells Hall B117

*Readings are the same for 4th and 3rd editions except for the pp #s for 9/7. Those are pp 76-79 for 4th edition and 71-74 for 3rd edition.