

# PSYCHOLOGY 200-001: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Monday & Wednesday 12:40PM–2:00PM — 108 Ernst Bessey Hall

Instructor	Office	Office Hours	Contact
<b>Prof:</b> Dr. Karl Healey	Psych Building 289C	Mon 4:30-5:30PM or by apt.	khealey@msu.edu
<b>TA:</b> Alison Day	Psych Building 213	Tues 11:30–1:30	dayaliso@msu.edu
<b>UA:</b> Emily Torossian	Baker Hall 455	Tues 1:00–3:00	torossi6@msu.edu
<b>UA:</b> Kenzie Weiler	Giltner 346	Mon 10:00–noon	weilerm3@msu.edu
<b>UA:</b> Taylor Hunter	Giltner 346	Tues 4:00–6:00	hunte109@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 Materials

### Official Text

*Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 4th Edition* by E. Bruce Goldstein. Watch out: make sure you get a copy with CogLab 5 access (see below).

### Coglab 5.0

You also need access to the Coglab 5.0 Online Laboratory. If you bought your text from the bookstore, your access code may have been bundled with the text. If not, you may follow this [link to Purchase CogLab Online Access](#) (a credit card is required). Once you have an access code you will need to create your online CogLab account. Please see the CogLab Setup Handout on D2L for detailed instructions on how to do so.

### Top Hat

We will be using the [Top Hat](#) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through non-smart phones via text message. **Be sure to bring a device to each class as there are bonus points for participating!** If you do not have any of these devices, come see me and we will find an alternative access method. [Click here](#) for a quick start guide.

An email invitation will be sent to you at your MSU email address, but if didn't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our [course Top Hat page](#). Note: our Course Join Code is 958853

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found [here](#).

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email ([support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com)), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

## D2L

I will maintain a D2L course webpage. The website will have the syllabus, review sheets, and a course schedule. After each class, I will also post pdf's of the slides I used in class that day. Grades on exams and quizzes will also be on D2L, but your HPR/Sona credits will not: those are listed in a dedicated system (see instructions below).

## Getting Help—Office Hours and Email

The best way to get help is to come to 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!

If you have a non-technical question that requires only a short response, you can email the TA. 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.

When needed I will e-mail announcements to the class. So, I encourage you to regularly check your MSU e-mail account.

## Grading

You can earn up to 500 points from the following required assignments:

Assignment Type	Description	Points Each	Total Points
Exams	Best 3 out of 4 graded	125 points graded per exam	375
Quizzes	Four Quizzes	25 points per quiz	100
Subject Pool	5 hours	5 points per hour	25
<b>Course Total</b>			<b>500</b>

In addition to the required assignments, you can earn up to 50 bonus points by participating in the in-class Top Hat exercises (details below).

Your final grade is based on the percentage of the 500 points you earn:

Grade	Percentage
4.0	90% and above
3.5	85 – 89%
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

### Exams

There will be four multiple choice exams: three midterms and a **non-cumulative** final exam (dates are given below). They will test your knowledge of the material presented in lecture, the readings, coglabs, and any videos we watch. Each exam will be scored out of 125 possible points. Your three highest exam scores will count toward your final grade—your worst exam score will be thrown out.

### Coglab Quizzes

On the schedule (see bottom of document), I have assigned 12 CogLab experiments that are applicable to different course topics. Your participation in these experiments will familiarize you with behavioral methods that are used to investigate human cognition, and will help you better understand the lectures. There will be four short multiple choice quizzes during class (also shown in the schedule), designed to assess your familiarity with the procedures, results, and implications of these CogLab experiments. Each CogLab quiz covers the experiments that were assigned to the dates leading up to that quiz (and that were not covered in the previous quiz or quizzes). Thus, I strongly recommend you familiarize yourself with the CogLab experiments prior to the class for which they are assigned. Beware: the order of the experiments in the schedule below does not follow the numbering in the online CogLab system. **Note: The dates listed for Coglabs are not 'due' dates—we won't be checking if you did them, just like we don't check if you read text chapters by the given dates—but doing them by these dates will help you do well on the quizzes.**

### Subject Pool 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 (5% of your total grade). For example, if you do 3.5 hours you will get  $3.5 \times 5 = 17.5$  points.

Details for 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](mailto: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 Ms. Audra Jeffrey ([jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu)). 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 & Quizzes**

You may take a makeup exam or quiz 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 the professor about at least 1 week in advance. In either case, please send me an email 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.

### **Extra-Credit**

Extra credits for this course can be earned in two ways (they are not mutually exclusive—you can do both):

1. For coming to class regularly and participating. During most classes we will use Top Hat to complete interactive activities (e.g., answer a multiple choice question about a cognitive theory; guess the outcome of an experiment we are discussing). The more of these you complete, the more bonus points you can earn—you don't have to get them right, you just have to try. If you complete 90% or more of the Top Hat exercises, you will get 50 bonus points, if you complete 80–89% the exercises you will receive 25 bonus points, if you complete 70–79% of the exercises you will get 10 bonus points, if you complete fewer than 70% percent of the exercises you really should be coming to class more often—you get no bonus points.
2. For participating in more research. You may complete up to 2 hours of HPR/Sona experiments in addition to any points you completed as part of the course's HPR/Sona requirement. Each point completed in this way will earn you 5 points upto a total of 10 points (2% of the total grade). The same deadline applies as for the standard HPR/Sona experiments (see above).

## **Academic Honesty**

Article 2.III.B.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities states “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: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).)

Therefore, except where specifically authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments, quizzes, and exams without assistance from any source. 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](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules will receive a penalty grade of a zero on the assignment. Contact me 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 the TA and I, must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with us:

- 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.

## 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 through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

## Important Dates

Exam 1: Wed, Sept 27

Exam 2: Wed, Oct 25

Exam 3: Mon, Nov 20

Exam 4: Tues, Dec 12 12:45pm–2:45pm in 108 Ernst Bessey Hall

Quiz 1: Mon, Sep 18

Quiz 2: Mon, Oct 9

Quiz 3: Mon, Nov 6

Quiz 4: Mon, Dec 4

Last day to participate in SONA experiments: Friday, December 8th

## Course Schedule

Week of	Topic for Mon	Topic for Wed	Text Chapters	Coglab Assignments
28-Aug	No class	Introduction		
4-Sep	No class	History & Methods	1	Signal detection
11-Sep	Cog. Neuro	Cog. Neuro	2	Simple detection & visual search
18-Sep	Perception	Perception	3	<b>Quiz 1</b>
25-Sep	Catch Up/Review	<b>Exam 1</b>		Stroop effect
2-Oct	Attention	Working memory	4 & 5	Sternberg Search & Operation Span
9-Oct	Memory	Memory	6 & 7	<b>Quiz 2</b>
16-Oct	Memory	Memory errors	7 & 8	Serial Position
23-Oct	Catch Up/Review	<b>Exam 2</b>		Levels of Processing
30-Oct	Knowledge	Knowledge	9	Von Restorff Effect
6-Nov	Imagery	language	10 & 11	<b>Quiz 3</b>
13-Nov	Language	Catch Up/Review	11	Prototypes
20-Nov	<b>Exam 3</b>	Problem solving	12	Mental Rotation
27-Nov	Problem solving	problem solving	12	Wason Selection
4-Dec	Decision Making	Reasoning	13	<b>Quiz 4</b>

This schedule is tentative. I reserve the right to change it to best suit the course.