

Fall 2011 Cognition and Memory 15:295:502

Class Meets: Wednesday 4.50 - 7.30 p.m. GSE 347
Course Instructor: Dr. Angela O'Donnell
Office Location: Room 325, Graduate School of Education
Office Hours: By appointment.
Contact Me:
by phone: 732-932-7496 ext. 8317
by e-mail: angela.odonnell@gse.rutgers.edu
by fax: 732-932-6829

Required Text:

Kellogg, R. (2011). *Fundamentals of Cognitive psychology*. (2nd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.. Available from New Jersey Bookstore, Easton Avenue.

Other Readings

As assigned.

Overview

The course provides a basic introduction to cognition and memory. Topics covered include types and structures of memory, judgment and decision making, and reasoning, among others. Applications to classroom practice are made when appropriate.

Expectations

I expect you to come to class having read the material and prepared to ask questions.

How You Earn Your Grade

The evaluation of your performance in this course is based on a points system. It is possible for you to earn a total of one hundred points (100) for this course. This system allows you to monitor your progress as the semester progresses. Details of requirements are provided on succeeding pages. The following is a list of the number of points you will need in order to earn the associated grade.

<i>To Earn</i>	<i>You Need</i>	<i>To Earn</i>	<i>You Need</i>
A	90 points	C+	77 points
B+	87 points	C	70 points
B	80 points	F	less than 60 points

<i>Required Activities</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Points Available</i>
Weekly Comments	Each week	20
Midterm	October 19	30
Presentation	as assigned	20
Final Exam	December	

Schedule of Classes and Reading Assignments

	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Sept.		
07	Introduction/Science of Cognition/Methods of Research	Chapter 1
14	Perception	Chapter 2
21	Attention	Chapter 3
28	Memory Systems	Chapters 4
Oct.		
05	Memory for Events/Presentation	Chapter 5
12	Memory Distortions	Chapter 6
19	Midterm	
26	Memory Disorders	To be assigned
Nov		
02	Knowledge Representation	Chapter 7
09	False Memory	Brainer, C. J., & Reyna, V. C. (2005).
16	Presentations	
21	Language/Presentation	Chapter 8
30	Problem Solving/Presentation	Chapter 9
Dec.		
07	Expertise/Presentation	Ericsson, K. (1996). Glaser, R. (1996).
14	Final Exam	

Policies

Academic Integrity: I expect that you will comply with standards of academic integrity (that is, you will not even think about cheating) in this course. If you need assistance in understanding an assignment or course content, please seek assistance from other appropriate resources or me. Assignments, however, should be your own work, except in cases where I have required a group product. The consequence for violating policies of academic integrity and other elements of the student code of conduct are serious and can have a tremendous negative impact on your academic progress and future career. You should not turn in the same work in two separate classes without the specific written approval of the faculty members involved. Leaving work until the last minute can increase the temptation to plagiarize work from journals or “borrow” friends’ work. You can avoid problems by getting your work done early. Exams are also your own work. The Office of Student Conduct supervises issues related to violations of academic integrity (see (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>)). Please familiarize yourself with the university policy on academic integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>). Also see the PowerPoint slides on plagiarism on the course sakai website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Midterm

Purpose: There are two purposes for the midterm examination. One purpose of the midterm is to provide feedback to you about your understanding of the material up to that point in the semester. The second purpose is to provide me with information about what you are learning from the material.

Format: The examination is an in-class, closed-book exam, lasting one class period. The general format of the exam will be short answer questions including definitional questions, comparison questions, and questions about implications.

Grading: Grading will reflect the accuracy and completeness of your answers.

Presentation

You will be asked to select a topic related to the course and develop a 20 minute presentation on the topic for the class. In your presentation, you should include an introduction of the topic, report its current status, and identify areas of needed research. You should be creative and interactive in your presentation. A question-and-answer session will be held after your presentation to engage students in meaningful discussions.

At least one week before your presentation, you should let me know by email what your topic will be, provide a brief description of your presentation topic, the outline of your presentation and how you are going to run your presentation.

Weekly Notes

You will be asked to submit notes about the readings on a weekly basis. These notes should be between 1 and 2 pages. The content can include any of the following: a) How the reading relates to your personal experience; b) identify difficult parts of the reading; c) raise questions about the reading.

Final

The final will be cumulative and consist of integrative essays.