Cognition Section 04

PSYC 135

Spring 2025   In Person   3 Unit(s)   01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025   Modified 01/22/2025

👤 Contact Information

Instructor:	Mike Dillinger, Ph.D.
Office Location:	230 Dudley Moorhead Hall
Email:	mike.dillinger@sjsu.edu [Best way to reach me!]
Drop-In Hours (aka Office Hours):	Wed 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM in my office or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mon & Wed 12:20 – 1:15 am
Classroom:	Clark Hall 226

💻 Course Description and Requisites

The activity of knowing: acquisition, organization and use of knowledge. Processes involved in that activity, including perception, memory, thinking and language.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

This is an in-person course. Each week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM, we will meet for in-person class sessions. During these sessions, we will engage in lecture material and content-related discussions and activities.

We need to work together to foster an inclusive learning environment in which people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives are recognized, respected, and seen as a source of strength. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity with regard to gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions on how I can make this course more equitable and inclusive to all forms of diversity are encouraged and appreciated.

All students are expected to exhibit professionalism and respect for each other and the instructor. Specifically, this means arriving to class on time, being prepared for class, participating in discussions, being civil to your fellow classmates and instructor, and paying attention to in-class demonstrations and lectures. If you arrive late to class or need to leave early from class, please sit near the door so as not to disturb the rest of the class. **Please silence and put away cell phones during class.** If I see that you are using your cell phone during lecture, I will ask you to put it away. Repeated violations of the cell phone policy may result in further disciplinary action. You may record lectures only if you obtain my permission first, and such recordings are only to be used for personal study and may not be posted online.

Academic Integrity

SJSU does not tolerate any forms of academic dishonesty in my courses. We all take issues of academic dishonesty very seriously and pursue disciplinary action rigorously, so please take extra care to avoid this sort of unpleasant situation. Any instances of cheating on exams results in an automatic 0 for the exam.

Plagiarized assignments automatically receive a score of 0.Plagiarism refers to using materials that you did not create (i.e., published works, work of other students, material created by artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT) and submitting it as your own creation without proper citation/attribution. When in doubt, remember this rule: All assignments in this course must be your own work and you must properly cite any resources that were used. Written assignments will be checked by TurnItIn and may be submitted to AI detection tools, as well.

I reserve the right to fail a student in the course if the academic dishonesty transgression is particularly severe. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development (SCED). Students may appeal any accusations of cheating or plagiarism to SCED.

AI Policy

All text or code submitted in this course must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else – including AI sources, must be properly cited every time they are used. Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation, and I will follow our institution's policy to the letter in those instances.

You may use AI programs like ChatGPT or Gemini to help search for sources, generate outlines, and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs is often inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that using them to generate text and arguments is likely to stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.

You may not submit any written text generated by an AI program as your own. If you use material generated by an AI program, it must be verified, re-written, and cited like any other reference material.

:≡ Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. Research Methods in Psychology. Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
3. Critical Thinking Skills. Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
   Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

.ıll Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

CLO1: Demonstrate knowledge of the different components of cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, and decision making

CLO2: Identify the cognitive mechanisms that underlie behavior

CLO3: Describe different research methods used in cognitive psychology research

CLO4: Infer appropriate conclusions from cognitive psychology research

CLO5: Communicate findings and implications from cognitive psychology research

CLO6: Synthesize evidence in favor of arguments pertaining to debates in cognitive psychology

CLO7: Evaluate and criticize arguments pertaining to issues in cognitive psychology

CLO8: Articulate how concepts in cognitive psychology apply to their everyday lives

CLO9: Respect the relative nature of empirical evidence

CLO10: Recognize the value of intellectual curiosity and skepticism

🔖 Course Materials

All Materials will be on Canvas, except for the Textbook:

Goldstein, E. B. (2019). *Cognitive Psychology. [5th Edition]*

It is available at the bookstore.

You might also consider getting a used copy of the 4th edition if you want a lower-priced alternative.

☷ Course Requirements and Assignments

Group Presentations	Tasks	Points		Description
	Presentation Outline & sources submitted on time	5		Plan for a 10-min presentation. Submit an outline for 10-15 content slides. Include 4 or 5 bullets per slide and at least 10 sources total.
	Full draft of presentation submitted on time	5		Draft a complete version with all slides and an extra slide for sources.
	Presentation	5		Present your slides in 10 min and answer questions about your topic.
	Teamwork rating	5		Collaborate with your group mates as much as possible.
Individual Projects				
	Project Outline & sources submitted on time	5		Submit a paragraph-level outline and a list of peer-reviewed sources for each section. Include at least 20 bullets in the outline and 20 sources total.
	Full draft of project submitted on time	10		Write an 8-page (at minimum 2,000 words long) individual paper summarizing the research about a specific cognitive process (across domains) or about a specific domain (across cognitive processes). Include at least 15 references, prioritizing books, book chapters, theses, or review articles.
	Report of project	10		The paper is due on the last day of instruction by 11:59 PM and must be submitted on Canvas where it will be plagiarism-checked by TurnItIn.
	Teamwork rating	5		Collaborate with your classmates on understanding, revising, and bibliographical research but write indiidually.

Summaries				
	Chapter Summaries (11 * 2 pts)	22		Write a 1-page summary of the most important points for 11 of the 13 assigned chapters, in the order the modules are discussed -- due before the class in which we will discuss it.
	Presentation Summaries (9 * 2 pts)	18		Write a 1-page summary of the most important points presented in each of the group presentations.
Final Exam		10		Questions covering the whole semester. Requires a Blue Book for written answers.
		100		

✔ Grading Information

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A+	96.50 – 100%	B+	86.50 – 89.49%
A	92.50 – 96.49%	B	82.50 – 86.59%
A-	89.50 – 92.49%	B-	79.50 – 82.49%

C+	76.50 - 79.49%	D+	66.50 – 69.49%
C	72.50 – 76.49%	D	62.50 – 66.49%
C-	69.50 – 72.49%	D-	59.50 – 62.49%

F	≤ 59.49%		

🏛 University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

Class Days	Summaries due before class	Class Topics	Other Assignments Due
Jan 27		Overview: What is Cognition?	
Jan 29		Overview: Group Presentations & Individual Projects	
Feb 3	Chapter 1: Introduction to Cognition	Sensation: Which characteristics can we sense directly?	
Feb 5		Work on Presentations	
Feb 10	Chapter 3: Perception	Perception	
Feb 12		Work on Presentations	
Feb 17	Chapter 10: Visual Imagery	Perception without Stimuli: Dreaming & Imagining	
Feb 19		Work on Presentations	Presentations: Outline & Sources due for all
Feb 24	Chapter 4: Attention	Attention	
Feb 26		Work on Projects	Group 1: Full presentation due

Mar 3	Chapter 11: Language	Language Comprehension	
Mar 5		Presentation Group 1: Acquiring information about Self	Group 2: Full presentation due
Mar 10	Chapter 5: Short-term and Working Memory	Working Memory: Immediate processing	
Mar 12		Presentation: Acquiring information about Others	Group 3: Full presentation due
Mar 17	Chapter 9: Knowledge	Concept formation: Identification & Conceptualization	
Mar 19		Presentation: Acquiring information about other things	Group 4: Full presentation due
Mar 24	Chapters 13: Judgement, Decisions, and Reasoning	Reasoning: Decision Making, Logic & Problem Solving, Creativity	
Mar 26		Presentation: Combining information about Self	Individual Projects: Outline & Sources due; Group 5: Full presentation due
Mar 31		SPRING	
Apr 2		BREAK	
Apr 7	Chapter 12: Problem Solving & Creativity	Becoming an Expert	
Apr 9		Presentation: Combining information about Others	Individual Projects: Paragraph-level outline due; Group 6: Full presentation due
Apr 14	Chapter 8: Everyday memory	Language Guides Reasoning	
Apr 16		Presentation: Combining information about other things	Group 7: Full presentation due

Apr 21	Chapter 6: Long-term Memory, part 1	Kinds of Memory: experiences, procedures, facts	
Apr 23		Presentation: Store/Retrieve information about Self	Individual Projects: Full draft due; Group 8: Full presentation due
Apr 28	Chapter 7: Long-term Memory, part 2	Memory for Language	
Apr 30		Presentation: Store/Retrieve information about Others	Group 9: Full presentation due
May 5		Presentation: Store/Retrieve information about other things	
May 7		**No Class	
May 12		Synthesis & Applications	Individual Projects: Final version due
May 20 @ 10:45 AM		Final Exam	