

## Psychology 270H1S (Winter 2016) Syllabus

# Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

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### Course Information

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<b>Instructor</b>	David Chan Sidney Smith 4001 Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-11am or by appointment Psy270winter2016@gmail.com	<b>Lectures</b>	Thursdays 1-4pm @ BI 131
<b>Teaching Assistants</b>	Robert Ramkhalawansingh <a href="mailto:r.ramkhalawansingh@mail.utoronto.ca">r.ramkhalawansingh@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	Caspian Sawczak <a href="mailto:caspian.sawczak@mail.utoronto.ca">caspian.sawczak@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	
	All TA Office hours by Appointment		
<b>Course Materials</b>	<i>Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 4th Edition</i> by Bruce E. Goldstein (Cengage Learning, 2015)		
<b>Objectives</b>	By the end of this course, you should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. describe the basic evidence-based knowledge in the different content areas of cognitive psychology research;</li><li>2. explain neural communication and summarize the functions of the major cortical and subcortical structures of the brain;</li><li>3. recognize the appropriate application of the major neuroimaging techniques;</li><li>4. describe the most important paradigms in the study of cognitive psychology;</li><li>5. analyze how research findings support major theories of cognitive psychology;</li><li>6. critique the assumptions, limitations, and investigations of cognitive psychology;</li><li>7. apply research and theory from cognitive psychology to enhance your learning experience, personal growth, and your understanding of the everyday behavior of human beings;</li><li>8. summarize the steps in the collection and dissemination of cognitive psychology research;</li><li>9. locate, evaluate and synthesize research from the cognitive psychology literature in order to write effective evidence-based arguments;</li><li>10. engage with other students to facilitate learning!</li></ol>		
<b>Blackboard &amp; Lecture Slides</b>	Log in to Blackboard ( <a href="https://portal.utoronto.ca">https://portal.utoronto.ca</a> ) to view the course webpage. I will post a pdf of my lecture slides under Blackboard > Lecture Slides. <i>In most cases this will be done the morning of a lecture.</i> In addition, my lecture slides will be sparse in text, and in order to facilitate critical thinking I will eliminate some slides from the pdfs. As such, regular attendance will be helpful for scoring a good grade. <u>You are responsible for announcements posted to Blackboard, so check this page frequently for updates.</u>		
<b>Classroom Behaviour</b>	It is inevitable that there will be noise in the classroom. Whether it be shuffling around, or asking a quick question to a friend about a misheard concept. Regardless of the reason, if I find your talking distracting, I will politely ask you to stop talking. I also encourage you to politely ask others who are distracting you to stop talking or lower their voices so that you may better attend to the lecture		

**Email** Please use the website Discussion Board for content-related questions. This way, all students will benefit from the reply, whether from the instructor, TAs, or your fellow students. If you have questions about the assignment, you should request a meeting with your assigned TA. If you need to get in touch with David for any other reason, please email [psy270winter2016@gmail.com](mailto:psy270winter2016@gmail.com). Replies may take 1-2 business days, but my aim will be to reply within 24 hours. Please only use your UofT email address, any emails sent from other sources (gmail, Hotmail, etc) may be ignored.

## Methods of Assessment

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Assessment	Assessment Tool	Points	Dates
	Assignment	20%	April 9
	Midterm 1	20%	Feb 11
	Midterm 2	20%	Mar 24
	Final Exam	40%	TBA: April Exam Period
	<b>Base points Available:</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Exams** The midterm and final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers and/or long answers. The final exam will be cumulative. All exams will be based on lecture material and the required readings. The midterms will not be cumulative.

All exams will be based on lecture material and the required readings. On exam day, please do the following:

- Bring your Student card or other picture ID
- Be sure to arrive on time since no additional time is given to those who arrive late

NOTE: If you fail to fill in the computer answer sheet with your ID number or last name you will lose 2% of your exam grade. If you fail to fill in the computer answer sheet with your answers (i.e. you haven't transferred the answers from the booklet to the bubble sheet) by the end of the test period, you will take a zero for the MC section of the exam.

Midterms will be available for review during TA office hours and my office hours. Refer to Blackboard Announcements after the grades have been posted to see when the midterms will be available to be reviewed.

**Assignment** The purpose of these assignments is ultimately to provide you an area to learn how to write and express critical thought. The assignment will consist of 2 pages (single spaced, 12 pt font, not less than 1 inch margins) on an experiment reviewed in class. You will take the paper, and write an introduction, a methods, a proposed results and conclusion on either a "next step" of the research article (what you would do next to ask a specific question) or a "what they missed" (a question you feel they didn't answer in

their research). An optional rough draft can be submitted by March 17 for 5% of the final grade (taken from the 20% of the assignment grade). Comments will be given to those who submit a rough draft. A more extensive assignment handout will be available on Blackboard. Please review the assignment handout for more information.

## Course Policies

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**Missed Midterm Policy** Students who miss the term tests for reasons entirely beyond their control may, within one week of the missed test, submit to the instructor a request for special consideration with supporting documentation. Students who submitted acceptable documentation will have the weighting of the final exam accordingly

**Acceptable Documentation** Acceptable medical documentation must use the official Verification of Student Illness or Injury, and must establish that the patient was examined and diagnosed at the time of illness, *not after the fact*. Documentation may not be acceptable if it is submitted longer than one week after the test or assignment due date; if the certificate indicates that the affliction is mild or negligible; or if the certificate is deemed invalid for any reason. Students who miss the term test or submit a late assignment for reasons other than medical should contact me directly, and will probably be required to meet with their College Registrar to provide documentation for extenuating circumstances.

**Missed Final Policy** Students who miss the final exam for reasons entirely beyond their control must obtain documentation and go immediately to their College Registrar's Office for advice on formal petitions.

**Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism** The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the UofT. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your UofT degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's *Code of Behavior on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviors that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Please visit [utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/](http://utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information on your responsibilities as a student.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing (or "stealing") of another writer's words and ideas, and minor changes in the wording here and there are not sufficient to avoid plagiarism. To better understand plagiarism, please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>  
<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

These websites will be used as the standard for identifying cases of plagiarism. If after consulting these websites you are still in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor or TA. Claims such as "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.

**Appeals** Students who have a complaint about the way a piece of term work was marked must

first approach the TA to discuss their concern. If the student isn't satisfied by the way the meeting went, s/he can write an appeal letter to David Chan. All requests for a re-grade must be submitted in writing within two weeks of the first day the exam or assignment is available for student viewing. Only requests that include adequate written justification of an error in the original grading will be considered. For the research report, you must also complete a marking rubric for your own report and justify any differences between your completed rubric and the TA's completed rubric.

A legitimate request will result in the entire exam or assignment being re-graded. Your overall grade may be raised, lowered, or it may stay the same. If there has been an error in our arithmetic, please let us know and we will immediately recalculate your grade (no written request necessary).

**Access and Diversity** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are most welcome in this course! In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me or contact Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; [accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://accessibility.utoronto.ca).

## Tentative Course Schedule

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Date	Topic	Reading	Notes
Jan 14	Welcome, Syllabus Overview, History	Ch 1, pp 4-15	
Jan 21	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch 2	
Jan 28	Short-Term & Working Memory	Ch 5	
Feb 4	Long-Term Memory: Structure	Ch 6	
Feb 11	MIDTERM #1 (Ch1, 2 5, 6)		
Feb 18	READING WEEK		
Feb 25	Long-Term Memory: Encoding & Retrieval	Ch 7	
Mar 3	Perception/Writing Lecturette	Ch 3	
Mar 10	Perception & Attention	Ch 3 & 4	
Mar 17	Attention + Action	Ch 4 & Readings	Readings posted on BB Rough Draft Due
Mar 24	MIDTERM #2		
Mar 31	Knowledge & Visual Imagery	Ch 9 & 10	
Apr 7	Language & Problem Solving	Ch 11 & 12	Final Assignment Due
Apr Exam Period	Final Exam		

\* course syllabus and schedule subject to change at the discretion of the professor at any time

## Experiment Participation (Bonus 1%)

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As many of you might know, psychology is largely reliant on students participating in experiments. In order to help move the field forward, a 1% bonus is available for any student who wishes to participate in a Cognitive Psychological Experiment here at UofT. In order to sign up, please follow the instructions below. At the end of the year, a list will be sent to me regarding your successful completion and a 1% bonus will be added on your final grade.

To sign up, go to <http://bwlab.chass.utoronto.ca/experiments/> and sign up for an experiment. Please indicate PSY 270 as the course you are enrolled in.

Each experiment will last approximately 1 hour. You are only required to sign up and participate for 1 experiment in order to receive the 1% bonus.

## Rounding Bonus

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It is no surprise that courses go by extremely quickly. Therefore, it is my hope that students will actively participate in readings and lectures in order to enhance their own learning. To aid in this hope, I will be providing sample test questions after lectures (not necessarily every lecture, but as frequently as possible). Students also have the opportunity to submit in 10 sample examination questions prior to both midterms and the final exam (30 in total). That means, you must submit 10 questions for Midterm 1, 10 for Midterm 2 and 10 for the Final.

Question submissions must be done 2 days before the appropriate examination, and can include questions pertaining to the appropriate test (e.g. write questions on midterm 2 material for midterm 2). Questions must be well thought-out, and must also include answers. Questions must also be written in multiple choice style. Submitting questions that are *NOT* well thought-out may result in losing the rounding bonus. Furthermore, submitting questions you copied from a fellow student will also exclude you from receiving this bonus (even if other requirements have been met).

Please submit all questions to David Chan @ [Psy270Winter2016@gmail.com](mailto:Psy270Winter2016@gmail.com) with your name, student number and questions/answers.