

PSYC 221. COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

2016 WINTER SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Prof. Viara R Mileva-Seitz
Course Email:	psyc221mileva@gmail.com (preferred)
Personal Email:	milevav@queensu.ca
Office hours:	Thursday 13.00-14.00 @ Humphrey Hall room 235
Teaching Assistants:	Zeinab Ramadan* & Thomas Vaughan-Johnston
TA Office hour:	Wednesday 13.30-14.30 @ Humphrey Hall room 329 (PAL Lab)
Lectures:	Ellis Hall Auditorium (58 University Avenue)
	Tuesday 8.30 – 10.00
	Friday 10.00 - 11.30

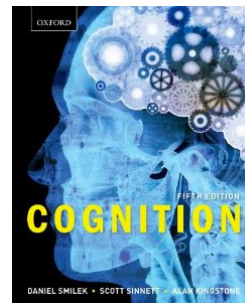
* Zeinab is the main TA for this course; email her or me at psyc221mileva@gmail.com

COURSE SUMMARY

An introduction to human cognition, or the *science of how we think*. This includes the mental processes involved in acquiring knowledge and understanding, by thinking about, experiencing, and sensing the world. We'll cover topics including **perception, attention, memory, language, problem-solving, and creativity**.

Textbook: **Cognition (5th edition)**
by *Smilek, Sinnett, and Kingstone*

NOTE: older editions might contain outdated information and are not recommended.



Web Site: All course-related information can be found here:
<https://moodle.queensu.ca/> (look for PSY 221 W Cognitive Psychology)

NOTE: If you have never used Moodle before you can get online help:
<http://www.queensu.ca/its/moodle/studentfaqs.html>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Does eating chocolate/running/[activity of choice] improve your memory?*
- Can blind people 'see' their environment through other senses?*
- Who is the smartest person in the world?*

These are just some of the questions we can answer by studying cognitive psychology. In some areas of cognitive psychology, we've made huge progress. In other areas, much is still unknown. In this course you'll learn the basics of cognitive psychology. It will become clear (I hope) that this is a crucial sub-discipline in human psychology, for if we do not understand **the science of how humans think**, we cannot fully understand what causes humans to behave the way they do.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE, ETIQUETTE, PARTICIPATION

You are expected to attend all lectures. You will be tested on lecture and textbook material. I encourage you to have a course buddy who can fill you in on missed materials and share notes with. You are responsible for making sure you have complete lecture notes. In the event that you cannot obtain lecture notes, please contact your TA. PDF files of each lecture will be posted the morning of lecture.

MISSED MIDTERM OR EXAM

In the case of illness or other emergency that causes you to miss a test, you'll need a medical note or other document. There is **no make-up midterm**. If you miss the midterm, the exam will be re-weighted in the following way: 15% will go toward your exam, 10% will go toward your Dr. Cog assignment. If you miss the final exam, there are central exam make-up days. Further information will be provided on our Moodle page.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

University closures (due to inclement weather, etc) mean class is cancelled. **ALWAYS** check Moodle 30 minutes prior to the beginning of class, in the rare event that class has to be cancelled for reasons other than university closure.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	Chapter	ASSIGNMENTS
Jan 5, 8	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	1, 2	
Jan 12, 15	Perception	3	
Jan 19, 22	Attention	4	
Jan 26, 29	Memory Part I	5	
Feb 2, 5	Memory Part II	6	
Feb 9	MIDTERM		
Feb 12	How to write in science	-	
Feb 16, 19	READING WEEK		
Feb 23, 26	Imagery	7	Feb 23: Labs due
Mar 1, 4	Concepts	8	
Mar 8, 11	Language	9	
Mar 15, 18	Problem Solving	10	Mar 15: "Dr. Cog" due
Mar 22, 25	Reasoning, Judgment, & Choice/Intelligence	11, 12	
Mar 29	Intelligence and Creativity, Personal Cognition	12, 13	
Apr 1	NO CLASS	-	
TBA	FINAL EXAM		

NOTE: this schedule is a guideline and the timing of covered topics can change

Course Evaluation: Labs (10 online labs, 1% each) **10%**
 Midterm **25%**
 Dr. Cog Assignment **25%**
 FINAL EXAM **40%**

Midterm & Final: The midterm and exam will be formatted similarly: the first half is multiple-choice and fill in the blank; the second half is short answer questions. Test material will be from the textbook, lectures, and multimedia such as videos and sound bites.

Laboratories: You must complete ten labs, which are part of the online content included with your textbook. **Late labs will NOT be accepted.** More details to follow on Moodle.

Assignment ("Dr. Cog"): For this assignment, you will write a short scientific paper in the format of a *Nature, Letters* paper. **Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty per day late.** More details to follow on Moodle.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of **honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility** (as articulated by the Centre for Academic Integrity, Duke University; see <http://www.academicintegrity.org/>) all of which are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see Report on Principles and Priorities) Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff therefore all have ethical responsibilities for supporting and upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity. (<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/academicintegrity.html>)

IN SHORT: Please do not copy, plagiarise, or cheat in this or any other course.

It is NOT worth it to take shortcuts and sacrifice your academic integrity. The TAs and I are here to help you, whether you are struggling with an assignment or trying to better understand course material. We **strongly encourage** you to come to see us: few students take advantage of office hours. Don't leave questions unanswered.

Special needs: If you have special needs please contact me as soon as you can and we can work out the working/learning strategy that suits you best.

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/>