Grand Valley State University
Syllabus
Cognition PSY 365_02 & 03 - Cognition, Fall, 2021

Instructor Information
Name: Mario Fifić, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Office hours: By appointment via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra (an online meeting platform) or Zoom
Email: fificm@gvsu.edu. Reaching me by email is generally much easier than reaching me by phone.
Phone: (616) 331-5061

Office Hours:
T/TR 4:15pm-5:45pm. Schedule by email. We could meet in my office Room 2217 at Psychology Dept, Au Sable, in a virtual office, left-hand side BlackBoard panel Virtual office Prof. Fific, or over the Zoom application.

Class Time and Place

Section 03
Tuesday	1:00pm 2:15pm	psy365_3	Lake Ontario Hall 174
Thursday	1:00pm 2:15pm	psy365_3	Lake Ontario Hall 174

Section 02
Tuesday	2:30pm 3:45pm	psy365_2	Lake Ontario Hall 174
Thursday	2:30pm 3:45pm	psy365_2	Lake Ontario Hall 174

Prerequisites
PSY 101 -Introductory Psychology, or HNR 234 - Society and Self: Psychological Perspective

Course Description (from GVSU)
Study of methodology and research findings concerning human and animal information processing. Includes a review of literature pertinent to subject and task variables as they relate to attention, memory, and decision behavior during thinking.

Why Should You Take This Course?
Many of our abilities depend on not directly observable mental operations. Abilities such as perceiving, thinking, language, memory and decision making are of a critical importance for our survival. Cognitive Psychologists try to explore hidden mechanisms of the mental processes involved in different abilities. To achieve this goal, Cognitive Psychology has been integrating many different fields such as neuro-anatomy, computer sciences, mathematics, economy, judgment and decision making any many more. So, this course is an opportunity to gain more knowledge about different approaches to understanding mental processes, and how this knowledge could be applied in real life situations.

Course Goals
Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
1. **Summarize** the important methods, research findings, and theories of cognition.
2. **Evaluate** current issues in cognition research.
3. **Compare** the strengths and weaknesses of various theories of cognition.
4. **Explain** how cognition is studied empirically.
5. Connect everyday life with Science: Learn to identify everyday life events that could be studies through Cognitive Psychology

Required Text

MindTap through GVSU Save: Goldstein - MindTap Psychology, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card for Goldstein's Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 5th. ISBN 9781337408295.

1. Purchase the access key in the GVSU bookstore.

NOTE: in case of some issues be sure to Allow pop-ups for Blackboard and Cengage

2. Go to BlackBoard/Weekly Content
3. Click "Mindtap PSY365 Cognition"
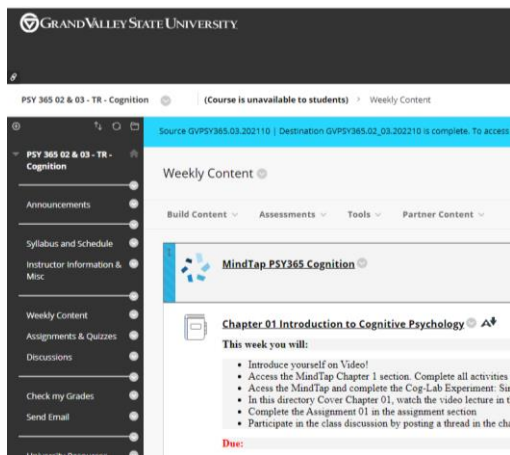
4. From here, your browser should open a new tab and you should be able to click continue and enter in your access code.

Additional Readings

At various times during the semester, additional readings will be assigned. These readings will be required, and will supplement the text and lecture. The instructor will announce and make the readings available on Blackboard, i.e., students will not be required to purchase them.

Required Equipment (owned or accessible)

- Computer with a sound card and speakers and operating system that meets current Blackboard browser requirements (Windows 7 or above, OS 10.10 or above)
- You should bring laptops, or your computer devices that are able to access the MindTap in the class.
- Computer camera (most laptops have a camera)

Required software (available for free):

"Microsoft Word" (find the installation link through GVSU IT)
Alternatively, you could use compatible Google Docs for writing your assignments.

Course Webpage

The instructor will administer all elements of the course using GVSU's Blackboard system. The webpage will contain pertinent course information, grades, lecture materials, announcements, readings, assignments, and exams. Students are responsible for all information provided via Blackboard. The full, detailed description of all assignments, exams, and due dates will be found in Blackboard.

To access Blackboard, go to https://mybb.gvsu.edu/ and enter your log in and password.

Take a look at the GVSU Online Learning pages to find numerous materials about using Blackboard and online learning http://www.gvsu.edu/online/.

Use of Blackboard is integral to this course and students must log on a few times each week in order to complete course requirements, receive important announcements and updates, and communicate with instructors and other students about course content.

Check the current technical requirements to use Blackboard and preferred browser information.

Technical difficulties with Blackboard
If you experience technical problems with Blackboard, contact the help desk by email or phone - helpdesk@gvsu.edu or 616-331-3513. The help website is http://www.gvsu.edu/it/learn/

Plagiarism
"Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodical, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism." (GVSU, Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog 2004-2005, p. 91). Plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the course.

Course Organization and your participation

(1) Class participation is mandatory. If you are not able to participate in the class you should let me know.
(2) Wearing a mask policy: during in person class wearing a correctly position mask is mandatory.

For more details about Covid-19 regulations at GVSU:
https://www.gvsu.edu/provost/covid-19-resources-266.htm

(3) Home preparation: Before each week you will be asked to prepare a dedicated book chapter, and also to complete the online tests in MindTap. For the class preparation you could also use my prerecorded lectures.
(4) Class activities: We will briefly go over the important information in each class chapter. You are encouraged to participate in a class discussion, and ask questions. In the second part of the class we will complete your assignment for that week by conduct a CogLab study, (by using your personal computer). Then we will be working together on the data interpretation and making the assignment report.

Optimal course working strategy

  (a) PREPARE: During weekend try to self-prepare for the next chapter. Use the mindTap
  (b) PARTICIPATE: On Tuesday's class actively work with me to clarify learned material
  (c) CLOSE: On Thursday's class do the CogLab and finish the reports for that week.

Course Requirements

Your class grade will be determined based on your achievement on, (1) MindTap tasks (quizzes, training and activities), (2) Assignments, (3) CogLab reports, and (4) Exams.

  (1)   **Completing the MindTap tasks** [34%]

Each chapter will be covered at the MindTap web site. While reading a chapter material, The MindTap will engage you to improve your learning. There are several types of engagements: (a) Mastery Training (b) End of the chapter Quiz. There will be not limit on how many times you can participate in these tasks (a through d)! Quizzes will cover material learned in the class. Each quiz is comprised of multiple-choice questions. All these activities serve for practice and learning and can be retaken an infinite number of times, before the week's deadline, Tuesday 1pm. Note that some of the quiz questions will show up in the exams.

  (2)   Assignments "outside of the box" [bonus points]
      Each week you could be asked to complete, at least, one assignment. The assignments would be an opportunity to think "outside of the box". The topic for the assignments will be related to the current chapter. You will be asked to try to describe how a particular topic in cognitive research could be used in everyday practice? The everyday practice could be the domain of your interest, perhaps your future career. For example, one can think of how research on short-term memory could be used in school education? Or how group decision making can be used to improve the work of jurors. There are no simple answers to these questions, and you may need to investigate a little bit. Who knows – maybe you could the first one in the world who could bring together some cognitive research and certain professional practice?

  (3)   Assignment reports of the CogLab results [33%]
      Usually on Thursday you will be asked to take one CogLab practice task, during class. You will be asked to complete your report of the CogLab no later than Friday, 11:59pm, each week. These activities usually require 5-10 minutes of class participation and would require a personal computer.

  (4)   **Exams** [33%]
      There will be three exams. Each exam is comprised of multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The exams are not cumulative. Some exam's open-ended questions will be related to class discussions and lectures, which may not available in the book.

Weekly deadlines

There will be only two important deadlines within a week. The first is associated with chapter learning, the deadline is set on the time before our first class on Tuesday at 1: 00pm. By that time you are expected to complete your MindTap quizzes. The next deadline is set at Friday 11:59pm. By that time you are expected to complete the assigned CogLab activity.

Grading

The MindTap activities, assignments and exams will collectively be worth approximately 400 points. Based on your cumulative point score the following grades will be assigned:

Grade Distribution

Grade	Range		Grade	Range
A	94 - 100%		C+	78 - 79%
A-	90 - 93%		C	74 - 77%
B+	88 - 89%		C-	70 - 73%
B	84 - 87%		D+	67 – 69%
B-	80 - 83%		D	60 - 66%
			F	59% and lower

THE GRADING SCALE AS PRINTED ABOVE IS *FINAL!* Any changes in grading policy will be announced on the course website.

Using LockDown Browser and a Webcam for Online Exams [if needed]

The purpose of exams is to gauge whether students have successfully learned course content and skills. To support that success, exams must be administered fairly. I find that students want exactly that—they want to know that when they have studied hard for an exam, they are being fairly recognized for that work and knowledge. The suspicion that others might be "gaming the system" can be dispiriting. This is especially relevant for online courses, where there is no in-class proctor or instructor present to ensure fair testing circumstances for all concerned. To help alleviate these problems, this course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The software simulates conditions of taking an in-person exam—it prevents students from looking at notes and course materials, and from communicating questions and answers with each other.

Although further information about this software will be provided after the course has begun, it is important to be aware up front that this is how exams will be administered, and that there are certain hardware requirements to take exams this way. The required webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. Watch this short video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. A student Quick Start Guide is also available.

When taking an online exam that requires LockDown Browser and a webcam, remember the following guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach
- Clear your desk of all external materials not permitted — books, papers, other devices
- Before starting the text, know how much time is available for it, and that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- If the computer or networking environment is different than what was used previously with the **Webcam Check** and **System & Network Check** in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to starting the test
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
  - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims
  - Ensure your computer or tablet is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move
  - If using a built-in webcam, avoid tilting the screen after the webcam setup is complete
  - Take the exam in a well-lit room and avoid backlighting, such as sitting with your back to a window

- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Netiquette [but also Etiquette]

This course will involve frequent opportunities to interact with your peers via the Blackboard Discussion Board. Although many of us have experience with e-mail, online discussion is different because we're communicating "one to many" rather than "one to one." Therefore, it's important that we maintain a sense of freedom to express our thoughts while at the same time providing a safe atmosphere for that expression. Please keep this mind as you are communicating with others.

All participants should maintain a professional attitude and manner of discussion. While spirited debate is encouraged, unprofessional behavior is not tolerated. Words often come across "more directly and harshly" in this written form of communication, since there are no facial gestures, expression or tone of voice to help convey your message fully. Your contributions should not be overly negative or personal in nature.

Emergencies and Schedule Conflicts

Exams will be administered online during limited time windows on specific days throughout the semester (see tentative schedule below). Absences from these exams related to participation in a university-sanctioned event, a personal illness, a family emergency, or a major religious holiday will be excused provided that you a) give the instructor at least one week advance notice (when the conflict is foreseeable) or a timely explanation upon your return (when the conflict is unforeseeable) and b) give the instructor written documentation from an appropriate faculty member, university administrator, physician, or clergy member. Make-up exams will be administered only if an absence from the exam is excused for one of the above reasons. Note that vacation is not considered a valid excuse. You may take a make-up exam either at another time on the normal exam day, or on the soonest possible date thereafter. An unexcused absence from an exam will constitute a score of 0.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact Disability Support Resources (DSR) at (616) 331-2490 to develop a plan of assistance that you can provide to me.

Tentative Course Schedule

Learning Modules (one-chapter modules): The learning modules in Blackboard will be a foundational part of the course. Modules are where you will find instructions for each one-week segment of the course including reading assignments, video lectures, practice activities, and assignments. Modules will open up one week at a time and various assignments will be due during those windows. All previous modules will be open throughout the course.

MODULE	DATE	TOPIC(S)	READING
1&2	Avg 30-05	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Ch. 01
	Sept 06-12	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch. 02
3&4	Sept 13-19	Perception	Ch. 03
	Sept 20-26	Attention	Ch. 04
		EXAM I: Modules 1-4	
5&6	Sept 27-03	Short-Term and Working Memory	Ch. 05
	Oct 04-10	Long-Term Memory: Structure	Ch. 06
7&8	Oct 11-17	LTM: Encoding, Retrieval, and Consolidation	Ch. 07

	Oct 18-24	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors	Ch. 08
9&10	Oct 25-31	Conceptual Knowledge	Ch. 09
		(No class on Oct-26)	
	Nov 01-07	Visual Imagery	Ch. 10
		(prof. Fific may be away)	
		EXAM II: Modules 5-10	
11&12	Nov 08-14	Language	Ch. 11
	Nov 15-21	Problem Solving & Creativity	Ch. 12
13&14	Nov 22-28	***Thanksgiving Recess***	
	Nov 29-05	Judgment, Decisions, and Reasoning	Ch. 13
15	Des 06-12	Dec 11-Classes End	
	Dec 14-20	**FINAL EXAM due: Modules 11-15**	

The above schedule is tentative. Any changes in the schedule will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Disclaimer:

All of the information included in this syllabus, including the course schedule, assignments, and grading procedure, is subject to change. Any consequential changes to this syllabus will be announced on Blackboard.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO SPEND ON THIS COURSE?

Because PSY365 is a 3-credit course, you're expected to spend a total of 108 hours on the course (3 course credits x 36 work hours per credit = 108 total work hours for the entire course, excluding attending the video lectures).
If you are taking this course during the SPRING term: You are expected to work on this course 3 HOURS per DAY, six days a week.

Tips for a Successful Learning Experience

*Although these might seem obvious and simple, they will make a difference

☐   Read the syllabus and view all preparatory information on Blackboard

☐   Stay organized and track due dates

☐   Plan weekly study times

☐   KEEP UP ON THE READING AND LECTURES

☐ Take your own notes on each lecture video, or write your own notes into the provided slides

☐ Log onto Blackboard at least 3 times per week to check announcements, discussion board (if asked), and interact with course material. Online courses require perseverance, self-discipline, self-motivation, and the ability to work independently – more so than face-to-face on-campus classes.

☐ Post questions, comments, and ideas on discussion board

☐ Ask questions of the instructor. Not just clarification questions about logistics, but content questions.

Academic Integrity

This course is subject to GVSU's general requirements for courses. A full list with pointers to resources may be found at www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies.

Section STU 4.0 of GVSU's Student Code contains very specific information about maintaining academic integrity. It states: "The principles of academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to a community of scholars. The University expects that students will not engage in acts of academic dishonesty in curricular and non-curricular academic activities. Engaging in academic dishonesty compromises the integrity of university grades, and scholarship and research.

Academic dishonesty is defined as actions or behaviors that misrepresent one's contributions to or the results of any scholarly product submitted for credit, evaluation, or dissemination. This definition includes, but is not limited to, fabrication, falsification, cheating, and plagiarism. Terms are defined as the following:

- Cheating is defined as attempting to use materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise that have not been allowed by the instructor.
- Plagiarism is defined as offering the work of someone else as one's own. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of other students. Academic dishonesty compromises the integrity of grades, meaning that all academic work should be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid.

Students will comply with the following rules, when engaging in coursework:
1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

PROCEDURES

When the instructor feels that action beyond a failing course grade is warranted, the instructor will report the incident at www.gvsu.edu/conduct and request additional action via the University Conduct Process. When the alleged violation is related to the Academic Honesty - Integrity of Scholarships and Grades, the Hearing Body shall be composed of faculty members.

It is the instructor's responsibility to establish a classroom atmosphere that fosters academic honesty on the part of the students. If any instance of academic dishonesty is discovered by an instructor, they will notify the student and discuss the incident. After discussing the instance with the student, the instructor will make a decision. Depending on the instructor's judgment of the particular case, they may do nothing, impose additional course requirements, ask the student to repeat the work in question, or give a failing grade for the assignment, examination

or the entire course. Any time an instructor addresses a violation of Academic Honesty with a failing grade on an assignment or in a course, they must report the incident at www.gvsu.edu/conduct. Other incidents may be reported for tracking purposes. Reporting the incident will notify the Department Chair, the Dean of Students, and the Dean(s) of the Instructional Colleges. Reporting the incident does not automatically initiate additional action, but keeps record of the incident. Students may utilize the Academic Grievance Process to appeal a faculty initiated decision."