

Grand Valley State University
Syllabus
PSY 365_03 - Cognition, Fall, 2020

Instructor Information

Name: Mario Fifić, Ph.D., Associate Professor
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Phone: (616) 331-5061

Office Hours:

T/Th 1-3pm. Schedule by email. We could meet in the virtual office, located on BB, left-hand side panel:
Virtual office Prof. Fific

Class Time and Place

Asynchronous Online Course administered via Blackboard

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.

Required Text



CENGAGE UNLIMITED, 1 TERM (4 MONTHS) PRINTED
ACCESS CARD
BY CENGAGE LEARNING, CENGAGE LEARNING
STAFF
ISBN-13: 9780357700037
ISBN-10: 0357700031
PUBLISHER: CENGAGE LEARNING
PUB DATE: JANUARY 01, 2018

[NOTE: This is a product that Cengage sells that gives students access to any of their titles & courseware platforms. Students can purchase it for \$119.99 and they have access for the semester to all of Cengage's titles.]

The registration code will let you access to the following learning module: MindTap Psychology, 1 term (6 months) Instant Access for Goldstein's Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience , 5th Edition [Note: it is important to get the Mindtap version above, as it will give you an access to the book, learning material, quizzes, and also to the CogLab.]

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)

- High-speed internet access
- 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)
- ~~Microphone (built in or external)~~
- Computer camera (most laptops have a camera)

Required software (available for free):

"Microsoft Word" (find the installation [link](#) through GVSU IT)

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 Requirements

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

(1) Completing the MindTap tasks [12 x 7=84 points]

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) Activity, (c) CogLab experiment and (d) 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 final exam. Note that some of the quiz questions will show up in the exams.

(2) Assignments “outside of the box” [36 points]

Each week you will 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 be the first one in the world who could bring together some cognitive research and certain professional practice?

On each of the course’s assignments, you can earn the following points:

3 points: If you completed the assignment before its due date and your assignment initially fulfilled ALL the requirements.

2 points: If you completed the assignment before its due date AND you corrected your initial assignment to fulfill ALL the assignment’s requirements within 4 days after its due date.

1 point: If you didn’t complete the assignment before its due date but you did complete the assignment within one week after its due date OR if you completed the assignment before its due date but your assignment didn’t fulfill ALL the requirements and you didn’t correct your assignment to fulfill ALL the requirements within one week after the assignment’s due date.

0 points: If you still haven’t completed the assignment one week after its due date.

(3) Discussion forum participation [50 points]

You will be asked to participate in several discussion topics using the blackboard discussion forum. Most of the discussions will be graded. Most importantly, participation in discussion forums will allow you to interact with the lecturer and other students. Information about the expected discussion role will be provided within each module.

(4) Assignment reports of the CogLab results [36 points]

You will be asked to report data of the class CogLab results. You will be asked to complete your CogLab task prior Friday, 11:59pm, each week. These activities usually require 5-10 minutes of home experiment participation, on your computer. Before the weeks deadline you will be asked to make a very brief report (one paragraph) about the class CogLab results.

(5) Exams [200 points]

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 be available in the book.

Weekly deadlines

There will be only two important deadlines within a week. The first one is the “soft” deadline: Before Friday 11:59pm, you are expected to complete the assigned CogLab activity, and save the result so that entire class can attend to the group’s result and use them for completing the requirement #4. The soft deadline can also be used to try to complete all the reading work and related learning activities (1). The “hard deadline” is on Sunday 11:59pm and it concern to all other submissions, that are graded.

DAYS OF THE WEEK 7 days		
WEEKDAYS 5 days	Monday	Mon.
	Tuesday	Tue.
	Wednesday	Wed.
	Thursday	Thu.
	Friday	Fri.
WEEKEND 2 days	Saturday	Sat.
	Sunday	Sun.

Finish the CogLab task for the week by this time!

Finish all other to-be-graded tasks for the week by this time!

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

A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	88 - 89%
B	84 - 87%
B-	80 - 83%

C+	78 - 79%
C	74 - 77%
C-	70 - 73%
D+	67 - 69%
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

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 test, 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

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 31-06	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Ch. 01
	Sept 07-13	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch. 02
3&4	Sept 14-20	Perception	Ch. 03
	Sept 21-27	Attention	Ch. 04
EXAM I: Modules 1-4			
5&6	Sept 28-04	Short-Term and Working Memory	Ch. 05
	Oct 05-11	Long-Term Memory: Structure	Ch. 06
7&8	Oct 12-18	LTM: Encoding, Retrieval, and Consolidation	Ch. 07
	Oct 19-25	Everyday Memory and Memory Errors	Ch. 08
9&10	Oct 26-01	Conceptual Knowledge	Ch. 09
	Nov 02-08	Visual Imagery	Ch. 10
EXAM II: Modules 5-10			
11&12	Nov 09-15	Language	Ch. 11
	Nov 16-22	<i>Thanksgiving Recess</i>	
13&14	Nov 23-29	Problem Solving & Creativity	Ch. 12
	Nov 30-06	Judgment, Decisions, and Reasoning	Ch. 13
15	Dec 07-13	Dec 12-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, 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."