Course Description: Cognitive psychologists explore how the normal mind functions with regards to everyday tasks: e.g., perception, memory, language, decision making, problem solving. This course will provide an introduction to a few key areas of cognitive theory, method and research. After completion of this course, students should have an understanding of the mind’s functioning with regard to cognitive tasks such as perception, reasoning, remembering, language, and decision making.


Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be recorded by the scanners in the room. Scans will only be recorded between 10:45 and 11:05 on class days. It is your responsibility to scan within this period and to confirm that your scan was recorded (the scanners will notify you of a successful scan). The semester is divided into 4 sections, each terminated by an exam. In each section, you can miss one lecture, no questions asked. For every lecture you miss beyond that, you will lose 5 percentage points on the exam that follows it, unless you have a documented, valid excuse for each of your absences, including the first. Example scenarios are given below. If you miss a lecture, I will not be responsible for any information or announcements you miss. In case an Ole Miss office (e.g., athletic dept, registrar, or other) asks me to report attendance, I will.

Scenario 1: You miss one scan window before Exam 1 because you didn’t feel like going, otherwise attended all lectures before Exam 1.
   No problem: you can miss one lecture in each section, no questions asked.

Scenario 2: You miss one scan window before Exam 1 because you didn’t feel like going, another because you were sick. You have a Dr.’s note for the second absence.
   You missed two lectures in one section, so I will now need to see a valid excuse for both. However, you only have one valid excuse, and you will miss 5 points toward exam 1.

Scenario 3: You miss one scan window before Exam 1 because you didn’t feel like going, another because you have a death in the family, and yet another because you hit the snooze button one too many times hoping you would find a nice parking spot but, alas, you did not and you walk in at 11:06. You have a letter from the funeral home for the second absence.
   You missed three scan windows in one section, so I will now need to see a valid excuse for all three. However, you only have a valid excuse for one absence, and you will miss 10 points toward exam 1.

Scenario 4: You missed one scan window before Exam 1, one scan window between Exam 1 and Exam 2, and you don’t have an excuse for either.
   No problem, you can miss one lecture in each section, no questions asked.

!!Note that, as long as you do not miss lectures without having a valid, documented excuse, you will not lose points based on attendance. Losing points is only possible if you miss lectures without an excuse!!

Lateness Policy: If, for whatever reason, you fail to make it to class before the lecture starts, you may wait outside the room until the instructor opens the door at an opportune time.

Evaluation: There will be four exams, each worth 25% of your grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Questions assess knowledge and understanding of the
reading, class lectures, discussions, and demonstrations. Each exam will cover material discussed since the previous exam only. That is, no exam will be cumulative. If, for whatever reason, you cannot attend an exam on the scheduled date and time, you may take it at an earlier time. If you miss an exam for a valid, documented reason that could not have been anticipated and were unable to take it early, you may take the exam at a later date. Exams that are, for whatever reason, taken at a time other than the scheduled time will consist entirely of essay questions.

**Grading:** Your final grade for the course will be determined by averaging the exam scores. The final grade will be assigned using the following scale: 93-100: A, 90-92: A-, 87-89: B+, 83-86: B, 80-82: B-, 77-79: C+, 73-76: C, 70-72: C-, 60-69: D, <60: F

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty (aka cheating, plagiarism, forgery) is **NOT** tolerated. Violations will be processed through the appropriate University committee typically resulting in serious consequences. More details concerning academic dishonesty can be found in the university’s M-Book.

**Disability Accommodations:** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities, which have been verified through the Office of Student Disability Services, are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

**Blackboard:** Lecture slides and grades will be posted on Blackboard as they become available. Course documents (e.g., syllabus) will also be available from blackboard. These documents will be posted in pdf format. You will need Adobe Reader to view these files. Adobe Reader is freely available from the internet: http://get.adobe.com/reader/

**Schedule:** This is a rough outline. Dates and topics may change over the duration of the course.

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**Wednesday January 23 - Monday February 11 (9 lectures)**

The Science of Cognition Ch. 1
Perception Ch. 2
Attention and Performance Ch. 3

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**Wednesday February 13** EXAM 1

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**Friday February 15 – Wednesday March 6 (9 lectures)**

Representation of Knowledge Ch. 5
Human Memory: Encoding and Storage Ch. 6
Human Memory: Retention and Retrieval Ch. 7

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**Friday March 8** EXAM 2

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**Monday March 18 – Monday April 8 (9 lectures)**

Problem Solving Ch. 8
Expertise Ch. 9
Reasoning Ch. 10

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**Wednesday April 10** EXAM 3
Friday April 12 - Friday May 3 (10 lectures)

- Judgment and Decision Making Ch. 11
- Language Structure Ch. 12
- Language Comprehension Ch. 13

Monday May 6 @ NOON Final Exam