

Syllabus for PSYC 406/506 (Cognitive Psychology)

Section 015 - Fall 2008

Time: 11:00 - 11:50 am (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

Class Room: SDU 321

Instructor: Dr. XT Wang

Office: USD Room 311

E-mail: xtwang@usd.edu

Class web page: [http://www.usd.edu/~xtwang/Cognitive Psychology](http://www.usd.edu/~xtwang/Cognitive%20Psychology)

Office Hours: MWF 12:00 - 12:50 pm

Phone: 677-5183

Text: Reed, Stephen (2007) Cognition: Theory and Applications (7th Ed.). Thompson.

Lecture Outlines: Lecture outlines can be downloaded from the course webpage to facilitate note taking in class. The ppt lecture files will NOT be for circulation.

Course Topics and Exam Schedule:

- 1) Introducing Cognitive Psychology
- 2) Perception and Pattern Recognition
- 3) Signal Detection Theory*

Readings: Chapters 1 and 2

Exam 1: Wednesday, September 24 (11:00-11:50 am)

- 3) Attention
- 4) Memory
- 5) Knowledge Representation

Readings: Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9

Exam 2: Monday, October 20 (11:00-11:50 am)

- 6) Categorization
- 7) Visual Imagery
- 8) Language

Readings: Chapters 7, 8 and 10

Exam 3: Friday, November 14 (11:00-11:50 am)

- 9) Reasoning
- 10) Probability theory and Information Theory*
- 11) Judgment and Decision Making

Readings: Chapters, 12 and 14

Exam 4: Tuesday, December 16 (12:30-1:30 pm)

*: Not in a particular chapter of the textbook.

The class will involve lectures, visual presentations, in-class experiments, demonstrations and open discussions. Course topics listed above represent the approximate order in which the topics will be discussed. There may be minor changes in the course and exam schedule.

Course Requirements and Grading Procedure:

1. Attendance and Participation. Attendance in class is required as it gives you the opportunity to contribute to the learning and to learn from others. Your class participation grade will be based on attendance, contributions to group/class discussions and in-class exercises. You should read the lecture

notes and textbook chapters before each class meeting and be prepared to discuss the materials. Lectures and other in-class discussion/activities will not be provided after a class is over.

2. Exams. Four regular exams will be given. These exams will be largely restricted to the material covered in the corresponding class lectures, the textbook chapters and class discussions/activities.

A missed exam will be given a zero score. A make-up exam can be arranged if a valid written excuse is provided. The make-up exam should be taken no later than five days after the missed exam is administered, except for the last exam.

3. Written assignment and Group Presentation

3.1 Written assignment. Each member of a group should *independently* write a literature review related to any topic you selected from the textbook. The review includes a title page, a 5-8 page long text and a reference list (12 point-font, double-spaced). This written assignment is due on Monday November 3. You should submit the written assignment in a MS Word format electronically to Hanako.Shishido@usd.edu. Late submission will result in point reduction. No submissions will be accepted three days past the due date. The file name of this MS Word document should include your name (last name first) and Psy406 (e.g., **SmithJohnPsy406.doc**).

3.2 Presentation. Each group will have 15 minutes to present the selected topic in class.

3.3 Group Presentation Schedule

Groups 1 and 2	Friday, October 24
Groups 3 and 4	Friday, October 31
Groups 5 and 6	Friday, November, 7
Groups 7 and 8	Friday, November, 21
Groups 9 and 10	Friday, December, 5

3.4 Group Presentation Document and Peer Evaluation. One copy of the presentation document (ppt file) is required to be sent electronically to Hanako.Shishido@usd.edu on the day of presentation. In addition, all members of a group need to fill out the Group Project Peers Evaluation form and send it to the above email address on the same day after your group presentation.

3.5 Group Presentation evaluation. The presentations will be evaluated according to the following criteria: (1) How well organized was the presentation? (2) How clear and coherent was the presentation? (3) How interesting was the presentation? (4) How good were the communication skills of the presenters? And (5) How well did the presenters respond to questions?

4. Experiments and Extra Credit. You may earn some extra credit points by participating in experiments. The extra credit points will be added to the score of the exam that immediately follows an experiment.

5. Exam Scores and Grade Distribution. All exam scores will be recorded as percentage of correct, making each exam worth 100 points. The average of the four best exam scores will account for 90 percent of your overall score.

Your course performance will be evaluated based on the following formula:

Four Exams	75%
Written Assignment	10%
Group Presentation	10%
Attendance and Participation	5%

Your final grade will be determined according to the following distribution scale.

<u>Overall Score</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>
≥ 90	A
80 - 89	B
65 - 79	C
50 - 64	D
< 50	F

6. Graduate Paper and Presentation. For the graduate students who take this course as PSYC 506, an additional paper (about 15 pages long, APA style). The topic of the paper should be selected from the textbook. Additional literature search related to the selected topics should be conducted. This paper will replace the written assignment for the undergraduate students in this class. The due date for the paper is also Monday, November, 3. An electronic copy of the paper should be submitted to xtwang@usd.edu. Late submission will result in point reduction. A hardcopy of the paper should be handed on the due day.

Freedom in Learning.

Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact Associate Dean Kurt Hackemer to initiate a review of the evaluation.”

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook.

No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

- Given a zero for that assignment.
- Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- Dropped from the course.
- Failed in the course.

Disability Policy

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.