

## **Cognitive Psychology (PSY 452)**

### **Summer 2008, M-F 10-12:10, Clark A-27**

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**Instructor:** Ed DeLosh, Ph.D.  
**Office:** Clark A-019  
**Office Hrs:** By appointment

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**RamCT:** <http://ramct.colostate.edu>

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**Course Overview and Objectives:** PSY 452 surveys fundamental concepts and current issues in the area of human cognition. Topics covered include attention, learning, memory, comprehension, decision making, and problem solving. A primary goal of the course is to familiarize you with the basic concepts and findings in these areas of cognitive psychology, but we will also consider real-world examples and applications of the material in order to emphasize the relevance of the concepts to our daily lives. As a result of learning about human cognition, you will gain a better understanding of human thinking and how it relates to mental health, clinical and medical diagnosis, education, marketing and advertising, and law, among other things. In addition, you will learn techniques to improve your own learning, memory, and decision making. Finally, in studying cognitive psychology you gain insight into one of the most exciting and expanding disciplines today, the science of the human mind.

**Course Format:** PSY 452 will be taught at a level suitable for upper-level undergraduates. The prerequisite for the course is either PSY 250 or PSY 252, as that background knowledge will be helpful for understanding the studies we will cover in this course. Much of the course will be presented in lecture format, but there will also be many demonstrations, exercises, examples, and illustrations to promote interaction and discussion. Several class periods will be devoted to "focus topics" that tend to be less formal, more applied, and more discussion-oriented.

**Required Material:** The textbook for the course is *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience*, by Bruce Goldstein. This textbook provides an overview of most major areas in cognitive psychology. There are also several supplemental readings that cover topics not included in the text or provide expanded coverage of a topic area. Note that the reading material and lectures are designed to supplement one another, not completely repeat one another. Lectures will not be a simple restatement of the readings, but will include a considerable amount of new information that either expands on textbook information or covers completely new issues and topics. For this reason, attendance is highly, highly encouraged. In addition to the textbook, you will need to have access to the RamCT page for the course. The RamCT page is used to post the syllabus, schedule, supplemental readings, PowerPoint presentations, etc.

**Evaluation:** There will be two exams in the course, a mid-term and final, worth 100 points each. Each test will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions that will primarily test your *conceptual understanding* of the material rather than specific details like names and dates. You will also be given four multiple-choice quizzes, interspersed throughout the four-week period. Each will be worth 20 points. Note that anything that is discussed or presented in class may be on your exams or quizzes, and you are responsible for all of the material in your reading assignments, whether it is discussed in class or not. In addition to the quizzes and exams, you may accumulate up to 20 additional points for in-class exercises and assignments, giving us a total of 300 points for the course.

**Grades:** Your final grade will be determined using the following scale:

Grade	Criterion	Points
A	90 - 100%	270-300
B	80 - 89%	240-269
C	70-79%	210-239
D	60-69%	180-209
F	below 60%	less than 179

- **Keeping Track of Your Grade:** All quiz and exam grades will be posted on the course website. Exams will not be returned, but I highly encourage you to view your exam during office hours or to schedule an appointment to see your exam.
- **Dropping the Course:** According to the registrar's website, the drop period to withdrawal from the class with no financial penalty ends July 16th. If you are enrolled and decide to drop the course, you must do so yourself. I do not take attendance and do not automatically drop students on their behalf. Therefore, if you do not drop the course and never attend, you will remain on the class roster and receive an F for this course. Check with the registrar's office if you have questions about adding or dropping the course.
- **Incomplete grade:** A student must be passing a course at the time that an incomplete is requested unless the instructor determines that there are extenuating circumstances to assign an incomplete to a student who is not passing the course. When an instructor assigns an "I", he/she shall specify in writing the requirements the student shall fulfill to complete the course as well as the reasons for granting an "I" when the student is not passing the course. The instructor shall retain a copy of this statement in his/her grade records and provide copies to the student and the department head or his/her designee. The student should not register for the course the following semester. After successful completion of the makeup requirements, incomplete grades will be changed by the instructor of record or the department head, in absence of the instructor of record. After one year, an incomplete will be automatically changed to an "F" (failure) unless the course has been previously completed and a grade change submitted by the instructor or the department head. The temporary grade of "I" must be changed to a grade (e.g., A, B, C, D, F, S, U) prior to the student being awarded his/her diploma from Colorado State University. [www.casa.colostate.edu/Student\\_Achievement/Academic\\_Success/incomplete.cfm](http://www.casa.colostate.edu/Student_Achievement/Academic_Success/incomplete.cfm)

**Make-up Policy:** You are expected to take all exams at the times listed in the course schedule. Please note these times and do not make any conflicting arrangements. If you do miss an exam, I reserve the right to ask for documentation to show that it was a legitimate absence (e.g., university sanctioned event, religious holiday, documented medical problem, or other documented problems) prior to arranging a make-up. You must inform me as far in advance as possible that you will miss an exam. For unanticipated absences associated with medical problems or other crises, contact me prior to the exam if possible. If that is not possible, contact me as soon as you can after the exam (it should almost always be possible to contact me within one or two days). Make-ups may differ in format or content from those given at the scheduled time.

**Attendance:** Classroom attendance will not be taken. Note, however, that *if you wish to do well on the exams, it is imperative that you attend lectures regularly.* Because of the condensed nature of summer courses, missing one class is like missing a full week of material during a regular semester. As mentioned above, lectures will consist of a great deal of information that can not be found in the readings. So attendance is strongly, strongly encouraged—*experience has shown that students have difficulty even passing this course if they do not attend regularly.*

**Classroom Etiquette:** “Any person or persons in unauthorized attendance or causing a disturbance during scheduled academic activity shall be identified by the instructor and asked to leave. Persons refusing such a request may be removed by the University police and are liable to legal prosecution and/or disciplinary action” (*CSU Undergraduate Catalog*). As part of classroom etiquette, remember to turn off your beepers and cell phones!

**Academic Integrity:** “The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic dishonesty. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are responsible for and affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. Academic dishonesty undermines the educational experience at Colorado State University, lowers morale by engendering a skeptical attitude about the quality of education, and negatively affects the relationship between students and instructors. Instructors are expected to use reasonably practical means of preventing and detecting academic dishonesty. Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty [e.g., cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possess or disposition of academic materials, falsification] will be subject to academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action” (*CSU Undergraduate Catalog*).

[www.catalog.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=catalog\\_04-06/policies](http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=catalog_04-06/policies)

**Class Contacts:** Because I cannot give you notes for classes that you miss, I strongly suggest that you get the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of at least two people in this class. That way, if you should miss a class, you will have several people to contact who can provide you with notes.

	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
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**Correspondence:** Don't hesitate to contact me if you need help with the course. I will gladly provide help outside of class. I also have an open-door policy and do my best to make myself available. I usually work in my office with my door open—if you come by and see my door open, that means you're welcome to drop in unannounced. If you want to make sure you catch me, you may set up an appointment. To do this, contact me after class, at my office phone number, or via e-mail.

**Cognitive Psychology (PSY 452)**  
**Summer 2008 Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
<b>July 14</b>	Introduction	
<b>July 15</b>	Foundations of Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 1
<b>July 16</b>	Perceptual Processes	Chapter 3
<b>July 17</b>	Attention	Chapter 4
<b>July 18</b>	<i>Quiz 1; Focus Topic: Driving and Cell Phones</i> <i>Focus Topic: Neuropsychology of Attention</i>	Supplemental Reading Handout
<b>July 21</b>	Stage Models of Memory	Chapter 5
<b>July 22</b>	Processing Accounts of Memory	Chapter 6; Supplemental Reading
<b>July 23</b>	<i>Quiz 2; Forgetting</i>	Chapters 5 and 6
<b>July 24</b>	Remembering	Chapters 5 and 6
<b>July 25</b>	<i>Mid-Term Exam</i>	
<b>July 28</b>	<i>Focus Topic: Memory and Amnesia</i> Implicit Memory	Handout Supplemental Reading
<b>July 29</b>	Reconstructive Processes in Memory	Chapter 7
<b>July 30</b>	Reconstructive Processes in Memory	Chapter 7
<b>July 31</b>	<i>Quiz 3; Focus Topic: Eyewitness Memory</i>	Supplemental Reading
<b>Aug 1</b>	<i>Focus Topic: Repressed Memory</i>	Supplemental Reading
<b>Aug 4</b>	Problem Solving	Chapter 11
<b>Aug 5</b>	<i>Quiz 4; Expertise and Creativity</i>	Supplemental Reading
<b>Aug 6</b>	Decision Making	Chapter 12
<b>Aug 7</b>	Decision Making <i>Focus Topic: Diagnosis and Assessment</i>	Chapter 12 Supplemental Reading
<b>Aug 8</b>	<i>Final Exam</i>	