

**Psychology 120A: Cognitive Psychology**  
Summer Session A, 2014  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30am – 12:50pm  
Kinsey Pavilion 1220B

**Instructor:** Laura Johnson  
**Email:** laurajohnson@ucla.edu  
**Office hours:** Friday 1:00-3:00pm, Franz 7578  
**Course website:** <https://ccl.e.ucla.edu>

**TAs:** Courtney Clark, Monday 9:00-11:00am, Franz 6437C, courtneyclark@ucla.edu  
Erin Sparck, Wednesday, 9:00-11:00am, Franz 6437C, emsparck@ucla.edu

## **OVERVIEW**

This course will present a broad introduction to cognitive psychology. We will cover a range of topics including perception, attention, memory, language, reasoning, and decision-making. Because this is a 6-week summer course, the pace will be fast and we will need to cover a lot of material in a short period of time. In order to do well, you will need to attend each of the lectures and keep up with the reading.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Recognize how the major theories and research findings in cognitive psychology contribute to our understanding of human thought and behavior
- Understand the methodologies used by cognitive psychologists to address research questions
- Evaluate and think critically about research claims

## **TEXTBOOK**

*Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Daniel Reisberg

This textbook is required and may be purchased at the UCLA bookstore or online. Hardcover, paperback, and ebook formats are acceptable, but use earlier editions at your own risk. Some versions come packaged with a workbook, but it is not required for this class. A copy will be available on 2-hour reserve at Powell Library.

## **COURSE WEBSITE**

Lecture slides will be posted to the course website by 9am on the morning of each day of class. Feel free to bring them to class to help you take notes.

If you have questions related to the course material or assignments, please post them to the discussion forum on the website rather than emailing. The TAs and I will check the forum frequently and answer as many questions as possible. If you happen to know the answer to a posted question, you are welcome to help your fellow students by responding.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Exam 1 (35%):** The first exam will be on Friday, July 11. This will consist of multiple-choice questions covering all of the material presented in lecture, discussion, and the textbook during the first three weeks of the course. No make-up exams will be given (except in extreme emergencies), so please schedule accordingly.

**Exam 2 (35%):** The second exam will be on Friday, August 1. It will have the same format as the first exam, and cover all of the material from the second half of the course. It will not be cumulative. No make-up exams will be given.

**Quizzes (20%):** During the first 10 minutes of each meeting of your discussion section, there will be a quiz covering the lecture material from the previous week (e.g., when your section meets during week 2, the quiz will cover the lecture material from week 1). The quizzes will include multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. There will be no make-up quizzes, and you will not be allowed to take a quiz if you arrive after the first 10 minutes have passed. You must take the quizzes in the section you are enrolled in. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Each of the four remaining quizzes will be worth 5% of your grade.

**Written Assignment (10%):** A short written assignment will be due at the start of your discussion section during week 5. You will be asked to select a scientific article that will be available on the course website, read that article, and write a short paper in response to the prompt. The paper should be no more than 2 double-spaced pages, and must be written in a 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Further details about this assignment will be available on the course website. On the due date, please bring a paper copy to turn in to your TA.

**Extra Credit (1%):** You can earn 1 extra credit point by participating in an experiment listed on SONA. Please see the course webpage for details.

## GRADING

### **Grade Breakdown:**

Exam 1:	35%
Exam 2:	35%
Quizzes (4 x 5%):	20%
Written Assignment:	10%

### **Grading Scale:**

By default, the following scale will be used to assign letter grades. If necessary, grades will be curved up, but they will not be curved down.

A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	93-96%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%

## COURSE POLICIES

**Missed and Late Assignments:** No makeup quizzes or exams will be given. Keep in mind that your lowest quiz score will be dropped, which should help you if you need to miss a discussion section due to an emergency. For every day that the written assignment is turned in late, 10% will be deducted.

**Students with Special Needs:** If you have any special academic needs that are documented with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD; see [www.osd.ucla.edu](http://www.osd.ucla.edu) for details), please let me know so that we can make any necessary arrangements.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All academic dishonesty will be handled according to UCLA guidelines. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero on the exam or assignment, and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Just don't do it!

## SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Section Assignments
1	M 6/23	Introduction	Ch. 1	NO SECTION
	W 6/25	Cognitive Neuroscience	Ch. 2	
	F 6/27	Applied Lesson: How to Study		
2	M 6/30	Visual Perception	Ch. 3	Quiz 1
	W 7/02	Visual Illusions		
	F 7/04	NO CLASS		
3	M 7/07	Attention	Ch. 4	Quiz 2
	W 7/09	Selective Attention		
	F 7/11	<b>Exam 1</b>		
4	M 7/14	Working Memory	Ch. 5	Quiz 3
	W 7/16	Long Term Memory	Ch. 6	
	F 7/18	Memory for Complex Events		
5	M 7/21	Concepts and Categories	Ch. 8	Quiz 4, Written Assignment
	W 7/23	Language	Ch. 9	
	F 7/25	Judgment		
6	M 7/28	Decision-Making	Ch. 11	Quiz 5
	W 7/30	Problem Solving		
	F 8/01	<b>Exam 2</b>		