

Intro to Cognitive Psychology - PSYC-003

Spring 2025

Instructor: Karinna Hurley, PhD

Office Hours: Mondays 11:20-12:20pm & *by appointment*

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of theory and research in Cognitive Psychology. Topics related to cognition including perception, language acquisition, and development, reasoning and decision-making, attention, and learning and memory will be investigated and applied. Student learning outcomes include:

- Explain the basic elements of scientific design and methodology applied to problems in cognitive psychology
- Explain the cognitive processes involved in perception, language acquisition and development, reasoning and decision making, attention and learning and memory.
- Strengthen critical thinking and reflective writing skills and apply them to current issues in cognitive psychology

Course Format

This is an asynchronous online course. All materials (including discussions, assignments, quizzes, etc...) will be organized by week and posted under weekly "Modules". Each module starts with an "Overview" page which outlines all the module components and everything you need to do for the week. Please be sure to complete the *Course Orientation Module* on the first day of class which introduces you to all the essential course information (grading, assignments, etc.).

Course Materials

Required Text: Reisberg, Daniel (2022). *Cognition*, Eighth Edition, W.W. Norton & Company with the access code to the book's learning tools *InQuizitive* and *Zaps*.

Course Assignments

Reading Quizzes: Reading the assigned materials is essential in order to gain the depth of knowledge required to contribute meaningfully to discussions boards and to be successful on assignments and exams. Each week there will be an *InQuizitive* reading quiz due by Sunday at 11:59pm designed to check the knowledge you learned from the textbook reading and help you practice for the exams. Up until the due date, you can answer as many questions as you would like to reach the target score and *receive full points*. And, your lowest two scores will be dropped – meaning you can miss two weeks of quizzes without penalty – *but the rest cannot be submitted after the due date*. The very first *InQuizitive* will *not* be graded to give you a chance to become familiar with the format.

Discussion Forum Posts: Weekly discussions are an integral part of the course with the purpose of giving you the opportunity to share with and learn from your classmates, interact with me, and reflect on

the course materials. Each Monday I will post a discussion question for you to engage with. You will receive points for posting an original post Thursdays by 11:59pm and points for commenting on at least one classmates' post Sundays by 11:59pm. Discussion posts cannot be submitted after the due date, but your lowest two grades will be dropped – meaning you can miss two weeks and still potentially receive full points. Engaging in more than the required number of posts will help in your learning but will not count for extra credit.

Assignments: Six assignments involve engaging with the book's interactive learning tool *Zaps*. These assignments are designed with the purpose of helping you apply your knowledge of the course materials in order to gain a deeper understanding of the content and concepts. Detailed descriptions, grading rubrics, and deadline information can be found on the assignment links on Canvas. Assignments cannot be submitted after the due date, but your lowest two grades will be dropped – meaning you can choose the 4 assignments with the due dates that work best for you and still potentially receive full points. There is one additional mini-assignment to complete at the beginning of the course.

Exams: There will be two exams. The purpose is to provide a summative assessment of your learning of the course material. Each exam will cover the material presented in class lecture videos, class discussion posts, posted content from Canvas, and textbook material; they are non-cumulative. Exams will take place via Canvas with a 1-day window to allow for scheduling flexibility but must be completed within the given time by the deadline. Make-up exams will be given *only in exceptional cases* and might be in a different from the original exam (e.g. an oral exam).

Other Information

Grading

Assignments	53
Discussion Posts	36
InQuizitives	21
Exams	60
Total	
	170 points

Grading Scale: <https://www.deanza.edu/policies/grades.html>

93-100% A	83-86.99% B	70-76.99% C	60-62.99% D-
90-92.99% A-	80-82.99% B-	67-69.99% D+	Below 60% F
87-89.99% B+	77-79.99% C+	63-66.99% D	

Course Communication

Please use Canvas messages to send me course-related questions. I aim to reply within 24-hours Monday-Friday and within 48-hours on weekends/holidays. I encourage everyone to come to my weekly live office hours Mondays from 11:20-12:20pm. There is also an “Office Hours” discussion board where you can post questions during office hours and I will post replies by the end of the hour.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Please contact me and the Disability Support Programs and Services Center (<https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/>) at the start of the course to arrange accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Every student is expected to display the highest level of academic integrity (https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html) including abiding by the *Student Code of Conduct* not plagiarizing.

Campus Resources

There are a range of resources available to all students including support for academic skills, mental health and wellness, basic needs, and more! If you need help connecting to a campus resource, please let me know – I am here to help! I am always available to chat about course questions, concepts, assignments, strategies for success, etc.

Schedule by Week

- Week 1 April 7th-13th Module 1/Chapter 1
- Week 2 April 14th- 20th Module 2/Chapter 2
- Week 3 April 21st-27th Module 3/Chapter 3
- Week 4 April 28th-May 4th Module 4/Chapter 4
- Week 5 May 5th-11th Module 5/Chapter 5
- Week 6 May 12th-18th Module 6/Chapter 6
- Week 7 May 19th-25th Module 7/Chapter 7
- Week 8 May 26th-June 1st Module 8/Chapter 8
- Week 9 June 2nd-8th Module 9/Chapter 9
- Week 10 June 9th-15th Module 10/Chapter 10
- Week 11 June 16th-22rd Module 11/Chapter 11
- Week 12 – Final Exam due Wednesday June 25th

* This syllabus is subject to change or revision, as needed, to best realize the educational goals of the course.