



Fall 2011

August 22 – December 11, 2011

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday (MWF)
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Cognitive Psychology
PSY-22803-01

Department of Psychology
School of Health & Behavioral Sciences

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T Only: 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
W Only: 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
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The first thing you should do this evening as you are organizing yourself for this course is re-read this syllabus.

Email: All electronic correspondence sent to me must be from your “students.rio.edu” account and should reference this course number in the subject line. Please know that if your [s123456@students.rio](mailto:s123456@students.rio.edu) email address is the only identifiable information in your email, I may not respond to it or give you proper credit. I will not accept or respond to personal e-mails or texts, such as those from Yahoo or Blackberry accounts. Response time to URG e-mail varies, depending on when it was sent. Forty-eight hours is a good time frame, unless you send it around 3:30 p.m. on a Friday. If you submit an assignment via e-mail, you will receive limited feedback via e-mail. Final exams, course grades, and overall grades will not be given via e-mail. You are responsible for the readable and timely delivery of all assignments. If you choose to send your assignment as an email attachment, only documents with the following extensions will be accepted: *.doc, *.docx, *.pdf, *.rtf. If you need help with sending attachments, please see Campus Computing & Networking (CC&N).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Cognitive Psychology studies mental processes such as sensation and perception, attention, memory, language, and problem solving. Although more specific than a General Psychology chapter on cognition, this course is an introduction to the broad intellectual foundations of the human experience.

PREREQUISITES: PSY-11103 General Psychology with a “C” letter grade or higher.

CREDIT HOURS: 3 credit hours

TEXTBOOK AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Cognitive Psychology, Sternberg & Sternberg, 6th edition. (ISBN: 798-1-111-34476-4)
2. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition (Blue book)
3. Descartes’ Baby, Paul Bloom, Ph. D.

Note: The text used for this class is intended to be the basis for the course. Reading the text will provide a basis for preparation, clarification, exemplification, and review of topics covered in class. The best students in this class will regularly attend and contribute to participation based on your prior reading. The telephone number for the URG Bookstore is 740.245.7274

PROGRAM OUTCOMES: The following outcomes have been adopted for the degree program for which this course is required:

1. Achieve greater awareness of cognitive development and multicultural influences on development in general
2. Understand and discuss at an appropriate level of depth the primary theoretical perspectives in psychology
3. Achieve greater awareness of the causes, development, and treatment of abnormal behavior
4. Understand, discuss, and use scientific terms and concepts common in psychology research
5. Achieve the ability to critically read and evaluate psychological research studies.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. To examine the major theories and concepts in cognitive psychology related to attention, learning, memory, language, and problem solving.
2. To use knowledge of what constitutes good scientific methodology in evaluating cognitive psychological research methods and findings presented in the textbook, on television, on the internet, and through other media sources. Lecture and in-class discussions, textbook readings, and in-class group assignment are intended to address this objective.
3. To stimulate your awareness of the applications of cognitive psychology in every day life
4. To develop an awareness of how culture impacts cognitive psychology

TESTING/ASSIGNMENTS/GRADES/ATTENDANCE/EXPECTATIONS

Tests: Although much information is given in class in lecture form, students are encouraged to ask questions and initiate class discussions that are relevant and respectful. The vast majority of test questions will be based on lecture, classroom activities, guest speakers, handouts, and most importantly, test questions may be based on material found in the textbook and are intended to assess your reading comprehension. This material may not be covered in class; nevertheless, you are responsible for knowing all of the information contained in the required materials (above).

Discovery of an electronic device during an exam will result in a zero grade on that exam for the person in possession of the device. This rule applies generally to all electronic devices, and specifically applies to mobile phones. That is, if you bring an electronic device (including a mobile phone) into the exam room on the day of the exam and the electronic device (including a mobile phone) is discovered on your person or with your possessions, you will be dismissed from the exam and given a zero grade.

The number and value of test/quizzes differs from semester to semester and will be announced in class. Make-up exams will only be given if a student is “officially” excused from class (absence list released from the Academic Dean) or presents a medical excuse from the university nurse or private physician. Pop quizzes are always a possibility – they are used not only to pick your brain, but also as encouragement to participate in class; read the material, and stay current or ahead of schedule.

Writing Assignments: You are responsible for reading and writing assignments in this class. All writing assignments will be written and graded according to APA Style. As the Publication Manual is a required textbook for this class, you will be responsible for the material contained therein. Unless otherwise specified, all writing assignments are due on or before October 15, 2011 at 11:59:59 p.m. This includes make-up, revisions, extra credit, presentations, and written course projects.

- **First Assignment:** “Annotated Outline” Your first writing assignment is an outline that you will send to me as a Microsoft Word attachment. Send your assignment to rfish@rio.edu from your “students.rio” email. In the subject line, type: PSY 22803-01 Annotated Outline for (your name). If you would like to type something in the body of the email, that is fine. If you do, sign your name at the end. Due to bookstore complications, I will announce the due date for this assignment. I plan to make the due date to be approximately seven (7) calendar days from when the bookstore becomes appropriately stocked with the book required for this assignment.

Guidelines for first writing assignment:

The first page of your outline will be your APA cover page. The middle pages (between the cover page and the reference page) will be your outline for Descartes’ Baby. The last page will be your APA reference page. Using APA style, you will include at least two references. The first will be the book you are reviewing (Descartes’ Baby) the second is a peer-reviewed resource of your choice. You must have at least two references and three pages. More is acceptable, less is not. The annotated outline is worth 15 points, and will be graded mainly according to APA style.

- **Last Writing Assignment:** Book review of Paul Bloom’s Book, Descartes’ Baby. This is due October 15, 2011 at 11:59:59 p.m. Your review should convince me that you have read and understand the book, evidencing an application to cognition. Late papers will not be accepted. Abstracts, although encouraged, are not required. There is a grading rubric for this assignment available on the instructor’s faculty website.

In writing your book review, do not take sentences word-for-word from the article; that is considered academic dishonesty. You must re-word the author’s ideas in your own words. APA style required that you give credit to the author whenever paraphrasing or quoting. Again, this is described in your required text (blue book).

- **Submission Instructions:** When you turn in your annotated outline and book review, you must also include a photocopy of the first page of the peer-reviewed reference that has text on it. If the first page consists of photos only, then provide a copy of the next page. You will lose one (1) point if this photocopy is not turned in. Please note the information under the heading “Academic Dishonesty.”

Extra Credit: Extra credit points require more work and effort than regular points. If you would like to be considered for extra credit, think of an assignment, project, or presentation and submit your idea to me during office hours. I will consider your proposal, and after completion, assign the bonus points it deserves. All writing assignments and related projects, including make-up and extra credit work, are due on October 15, 2011. No late assignments will be accepted.

Grades: Your final grade for this course will be based on the following:

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| A. Mid-Term Exam: | 50 points |
| B. Final Exam: | 100 points |