

Cognitive Psychology
Psychology 120/Cog. Sci. 100
Fall 2007
(Draft: 8/23/07)

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday 10:10 (*sharp!*) to 11:00, 159 Mulford (no Friday lecture)
Monday & Wednesday sections are in Tolman 3138; Friday. sections are in 2235.

<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E mail</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
Bill Prinzmetal	643-7635	wprinz@berkeley.edu*	Tolman G35	Tues. 9-12
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* e-mail to Professor Prinzmetal must have "Cognitive" in the subject line.

Web site: <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~psych120/>

Overview:

This course will be a survey of the methods, contents, and applications of cognitive psychology from a cognitive science perspective. Topics include perception, memory, language, problem solving, and decision-making. The main thesis of the course is that our mental lives are shaped largely by cognitive (mental) processes. These processes determine what we perceive and remember, and how we think. The perspective taken is interdisciplinary and includes physiology, anatomy, philosophy, linguistics, computer science, etc., with cognitive psychology as the core discipline.

Grades:

Grades will be based on total points earned on various activities as shown below:

Tests (100 points each).....	300
Paper Topic.....	10
Draft Day.....	10
Term paper.....	80
Short Reports (10 points each, Top 8 reports).	80
Subject Pool participation.....	20

The letter grade will be determined by total points earned divided by the highest overall score in the class. Letter grades will be based on this percentage approximately as follows:

A+	98.0% & above	B+	89.0% to 91.9%	C+	79.0% to 81.9%	D	59.0% to 64.9%
A	94.0% to 97.9%	B	84.0% to 88.9%	C	74.0% to 78.9%	F	below 58.9%
A-	92.0% to 93.9%	B-	82.0% to 83.9%	C-	65.0% to 73.9%		

Sections meet the first week!

Tests:

Each of the three tests will have equal weight. They will be a combination of short answer and multiple-choice. The material covered by the tests will not be cumulative, but will include only the material covered in the preceding part of the course. The material will be from the text, reader articles (located in the class website), and sections.

Topic Paper: Due in discussion section Oct. 30 to Nov. 1

An easy 10 points can be earned by turning in a one page typed paper that includes the following: (1) Your name {I said this was easy}; (2) Title of your paper; (3) The thesis of the paper {1 or 2 sentences}; (4) a list of the references that you are going to use in your paper (usually 3 to 5 references); (5) **a copy of the first page of each article that you are going to use in your paper.** The topic paper is due **at your scheduled discussion section.** Late papers will not be accepted!!!

Draft Day: Week of Nov. 27 to Nov. 29

Earn 10 additional points while improving your term paper! To receive the Draft Day points, bring **2 copies** of complete drafts of your paper to your section on Draft Day. The drafts must be typed. The instructor's opinion of what constitutes a complete draft will be final. However, drafts will not be graded; if it's an acceptable draft, the 10 points are automatic. (Note, you must show up and turn in your draft at the beginning of your section to receive credit). *Students are expected to revise their term papers in accord with the feedback that they receive at draft day.*

Term Paper:

The term paper will be a **MAXIMUM** of 5 double-spaced, typed pages (excluding cover page, reference list and any figures). The penalty for exceeding the page limit is 50% of the grade. Please, no microscopic type (i.e., below elite). The paper should follow **APA** style as far as references (i.e., same reference style as your textbook).

Exact instructions for the paper will be given in class. Briefly, the term paper should discuss 3 to 5 related research papers. One of the papers must be a paper mentioned in one of the class readings or you must receive permission from your TA. Use only original research reports in your paper. (**Reader** articles are generally review papers, not original research reports). Copies of the first page of the articles that you summarize must be attached to the end of the paper.

The term paper should have a clear thesis that integrates the research papers. Normally, the thesis should be explicitly stated in the beginning of the paper. The paper should show that the student has a clear understanding of the design of the studies and give sufficient detail so that the reader understands the essential aspects of the research, including the hypothesis, independent and dependent variables, results, and conclusions for each of the studies.

The paper is due in lecture, Monday, Dec. 4. The penalty for late papers is as follows:

by 3:00 PM Dec. 5	20 point penalty
by 3:00 PM Dec. 6	30 point penalty
by 3:00 PM Dec. 7	40 point penalty

***No paper will be accepted after Dec. 7

Short Reports:

Reports not turned in at the *beginning* of the section (10 minutes after the hour) will not be accepted. A Short Report can be written on any weeks except as indicated in the syllabus. The Short Reports must be typed. They usually should be less than a page long. Each short report is worth a maximum of 10 points, and your score will be determined by the top 8 reports (i.e., a maximum 80 points).

There are two parts to the Short reports.

Part 1: CogLab (see special CogLab instructions at the end of the syllabus.)

To get credit, you must complete the CogLab assignment by the following deadlines:

Monday sections: Complete your lab by noon the previous Friday.

Wednesday sections: Complete your lab by noon the previous Monday.

Friday sections: Complete your lab by noon Wednesday (the Wednesday before the Friday it is due).

For example, if you are in a Wednesday section, to do a short report for Sept. 8, you must have completed the CogLab by noon, Sept. 4. This is so that you can download enough data so that your report is meaningful.

You just have to describe briefly the following, due in section:

- (1) What is the hypothesis that is being tested in the experiment?
- (2) What was the task that you the subject engaged in? What were the stimuli and what was the task (be concrete).
- (3) What was/were the independent variable(s)?
- (4) What was the dependent variable?
- (5) What were the class results? What were the predicted results and did the class results match the prediction. If not, how are they different?

Part 2: Reading

Part 2 of the Short Report consists of four questions generated from the reading (textbook or reader). The questions should be multiple-choice questions with 4 alternatives. We will try to use at least some student submitted questions for the midterms. Your TA may give you further instructions about the questions, but generally all of them will be from the text. On weeks that there is a reader article, 2 should be from the text and two from the reader article.

Subject Pool Participation

The Psychology Department requires 3-hours participation in the subject pool for students in 'decade' classes (classes ending in 0). The Department of Psychology policy is that participation counts for approximately 5% of the subject's grade. Filling out the "Prescreening and General Survey" (available about the third week of class) will count as one hour. You will receive instructions for subject pool participation.

There is no partial credit for the subject pool requirement.

Readings:

Readings will be from the following:

- *Cognitive Psychology*, Fourth edition by Medin, Ross, and Markman. Assignments are by chapter. (Abbreviated Ch, below)
- Extra *reader* articles (*READ*). The reader articles are on line at <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~psych120/>
- CogLab Student Manual – on line edition (with PIN), is required and you cannot use a used version. (The PIN will not work). Assignments are abbreviated CL: below.

Week 9	Oct. 23	Malleability of Memory	READ: Loftus & Coan
	Oct. 25	Recovered/Repressed Memories	READ: Cooper & Shepard CL: False Memory
Week 10		<i>Term paper topic paper due in section</i>	
	Oct. 30	Cognitive Maps <Trick or Treat>	Ch. 8
	Nov. 1	Mnemonics	CL: Mental Rotation
Week 11			
	Nov. 6	Test 2	
		Unit 3 - Language and Thought	
	Nov. 8	Speech & Language I	Ch. 9 READ: Eimas CL: Categorical Perception: Discrimination
Week 12			
	Nov. 13	Speech & Language II	Ch. 10
	Nov. 15	Language & Thought Psychonomics	CL: Lexical Decision (See ch. 6)
Week 13			
	Nov. 20	Concepts and Categories	Ch. 11-12
	Nov. 22	Mental Models <Thanksgiving Holiday> ²	READ: McCloskey CL: Prototypes
Week 14		<i>Term paper draft due in section</i>	
	Nov. 27	Cognitive Development*	Ch. 14
	Nov. 29	Decisions in "Real Life"	READ: Kahneman & Tversky CL: Risky Decisions
Week 15		<i>Term papers due Dec.4</i>	
	Dec. 4	Heuristics	Ch. 12
	Dec. 6	Confirmation Bias	CL: Typical Reasoning
Dec. 12	(Tuesday)	8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Test 3 Breakfast not included	

* Surprise guest speaker possible.

² Thursday and Friday's sections can turn in their short reports at lecture Monday or Wednesday

Instructions for getting started with CogLab

These instructions describe how students in the class *Cognitive Psychology 120* for instructor *Bill Prinzmetal* at *University of California, Berkeley* create their individual accounts. Students in other classes will follow similar directions, but the log-in IDs and passwords will be different.

- . 1 Open your Web browser and go to
<http://coglab.wadsworth.com/Information/studentscreate.shtml>
- . 2 Go to the bottom of the Web page. There should be three text fields and one button. If these are not visible, your Web browser does not have Java enabled or has an out of date version of Java. Go to the CogLab Browser Check page for details.
- . 3 In the top text field, enter the group ID: *CogPsyBerkeley*. In the bottom text field, enter the access password: *CogPsy120*. In the third text field, enter your registration code. The registration code could be in one of several formats. It may be on a sticker on the inside front cover of your CogLab Student Manual. It may have been bundled with your textbook on a postcard. Or, you may have purchased a registration code electronically (sometimes this is also called an e-Pin). **Do not purchase used CogLab registration codes!** If the registration code has already been used, it will not work for you. Each valid registration code can be used only once. After filling in all the text fields, click on the *Submit information* button.
- . 4 Your Web browser will connect with the CogLab server to verify your information. If the information is correct, a new window will appear. Make sure that the school name, instructor name, and class name are correct. If they are not, you may have accidentally accessed a different group than your instructor intended. The field marked as 'Your log-in ID:' lists your assigned log-in ID, which you will use to access your CogLab account and complete experiments. **You cannot change this log-in ID.**
- . 5 Enter your registration code, first name, last (family) name, a password, and a security question and answer. For the security question and answer, try to pick a topic that will be easy for you to know the answer but would be difficult for anyone else (e.g., the name of your first pet).
- . 6 Click on the *Apply* button. Your Web browser will again connect with the CogLab server to save your data and register your account. If all of your information is valid, your account is ready to go! When your information is saved, your registration code will be marked as being used.
- . 7 When your data is saved, your Web browser will load a new window that lists all the

properties of your CogLab account. Especially important is the log-in ID and password. Print or save this Web page for your records. (*Note*: some pop-up blockers will prevent this window from appearing. If your data does not appear, click the link below the text fields to view this page. Go to the CogLab Browser Check page for details.)

- . 8 To start doing experiments, point your Web browser to <http://coglab.wadsworth.com>. Select the experiment that you want to perform by clicking on the link. Read the information and instructions carefully. At the bottom of the page are two text fields and two buttons. Enter your log-in ID and password and then click on the *Submit information* button. After your log-in information is verified, the *Start experiment* button can be selected. Click on the *Start experiment* button to open a new window where the experiment will take place. You need to read the instructions before you can complete the experiment!
- . 9 At the end of the experiment, the browser window will load a summary of your data for the experiment. When you see this window, you are finished with the experiment.
- . 10 You can access details about your account, and view averages from your group and across the nation by directing your Web browser to <http://coglab.wadsworth.com/Information/studentsaccess.shtml>.

If you have any problems, contact technical support at <http://coglab.wadsworth.com/support/techsupport.html>