

Cognitive Psychology Syllabus PSY 340
GT 190 MWF 11:30-12:20

Co-Instructor: Collin Scarince

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Office hours M 10:00-11:30, TR 10:15-11:15, or by appointment

Co-Instructor: Dr. Michael Hout

Office hours M 10:00-11:15, T 10:00-11:15

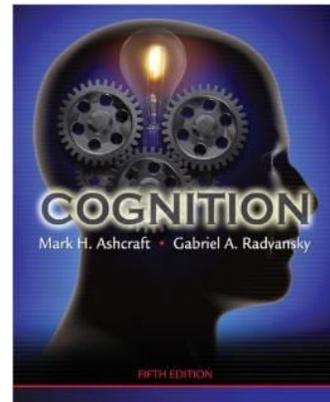
Email: mhout@nmsu.edu

Office: Science Hall 343

Office hours by appointment

Course Information

- Required Reading: *Cognition (5th ed.)* by Ashcraft & Radvansky (ISBN-10: 0136050468)
[Link to Amazon here](#)
- Digital Content: LaunchPad Solo Cognitive Toolkit
- Online content: Canvas (learn.nmsu.edu)



Prerequisites

- Psy 201G (Introduction to Psychology)
- Psy 310 (Research Methods in Psychology)
- STAT 251G, STAT 271G, or AST 311 (Introduction to Statistics)

Course Overview

Welcome to Psy 340 – Cognitive Psychology at New Mexico State University. In this class we will explore how psychologists answer fundamental questions about how we think and perceive the world around us. We will cover a variety of topics from basic perception and memory, to complex cognitive processes like language and problem solving.

The format of this class may be a little different than you are used to. While most of the class will follow an interactive lecture format, there will also be a handful of days on which you will work in groups. On these days you and your group will answer complex questions related to the key concepts of cognitive psychology. Even on some lecture days, you and your group will have to quickly answer some questions or engage in discussions/debates/competitions with other groups. These active learning strategies have been shown time and time again to improve student engagement and, ultimately, learning.

This course has been designed to be interactive and more hands on than traditional lecturing classes to help you engage with the material at a deeper and more practical level. Our primary goal for this class is for you to not only be able to wow

your family with all the fancy words you've learned at college, but how to apply the principles outside of the classroom. We hope you enjoy it.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to...

- Construct a model of information processing using current theorized components
- Compare and contrast “top-down” and “bottom-up” processing
- Critique the assumptions of cognitive science
- Compare and contrast different approaches to problem solving and thinking
- Create mnemonics and strategies of elaborative rehearsal to aid in working memory performance
- Critique the universal requirements of language and apply them to humans, animals, and other systems
- Apply specific components of cognitive psychology in a study plan to aid in your educational efforts

Assessment

Exams: There will be 3 midterm exams given during the regular semester and an optional cumulative final given during finals week (May 6, 10:30-12:30). If taken, the optional final will replace your lowest test score even if your score on the optional final is lower than your previously lower score. The exams will be a mix of multiple choice (roughly 20) and short answer questions (roughly 5).

Quizzes: There will be [16] short quizzes administered through Canvas over the readings in the book. The corresponding pages that each quiz will cover are listed in the course schedule. Each quiz must be completed BEFORE class on the day indicated in the schedule on your own (not with the help of other classmates). You will have 5 minutes to answer 5 questions (four over the reading and one review question). Your top [13] quizzes will contribute to your final grade, your bottom 3 will be dropped. While you are allowed to use the book and your notes, I suggest completing the reading before opening the quiz.

Group Projects: There will be 7 group projects that will help you and your classmates delve deeper into the core topics of this course. These projects will be completed in class on the days noted in the class schedule (although you and your group may work on a project outside of class if necessary). Your groups will be arranged by the instructors and will be consistent throughout the semester (see more about groups below).

These projects will help test your application and critical thinking of critical topics in cognitive science and should be considered similar to exams. The instructions for each group activity will typically be available five days before the class period they

will be completed, and it is highly recommended you read the instructions beforehand. These activities are created to be completed within one class period.

Activities: There will also be about [13] individual activities that will be completed in and out of class. Most of these activities will take the form of experiments you will complete on your own outside of class (see more about experiments below). Some activities will be completed with help from your group members in class. While most of the activities are already scheduled, we may add ones on days where an activity will be beneficial to supplement the lecture. These will be quick discussions or demonstrations that will be completed in class and in cooperation with your other group members. In your final grade, your lowest [3] will be dropped.

Capstone Project: By the end of the term, you will make a study plan utilizing the principles you learn in this class. Your plan will be presented in the form of a formal (APA-style) paper and graded based on a rubric that will be provided after the first exam. There will be iterative in-class activities at the end of each section that will help you build the final product. See more about this assignment below.

Peer Evaluation: At the end of the semester, you will get a review from your other group members. This serves as a way to encourage participation and accountability to all members of a team. Evaluation criteria include how prepared you are for each group-activity day, attendance, participation, cooperation, communication, and the ability to uniquely contribute to the final product. An example is provided below.

Grade Weights: You may have noticed that in the categories above there are no point values associated with them. This is because you, as a class, have (some) control over how your performance will be assessed in the class. One of the pre-quiz questions will be regarding how you would like the points distributed for the types of assessment. There will be [three] templates to choose from, and the one with the most votes after the pre-quiz is closed will decide how assignments will be weighted during the semester.

Grading policies

Exams: In the cases that the class average for an exam is relatively low, it may be necessary to adjust the raw exam scores. Typically, this will be done by adding points to everyone's score based on the difference between the top score in the class and the maximum points; however, varying circumstances in score distribution may require a different procedure. **SCORES WILL NEVER BE LOWERED IN AN ATTEMPT TO NORMALIZE OR CURVE EXAM SCORES.** Any adjustments made to raw exam scores will be to benefit the class. (With that being said, don't count on a heavy curve. There are always a few curve busters.)

Quizzes: Quizzes will be graded electronically and automatically on Canvas and there will be no adjustment to raw scores. If you do not complete the quiz before the due date and time you will receive a zero for that quiz.

Group Projects and the Capstone Project: Group projects will be graded based on how well your group answers the questions. Most of the problems you and your group will work on will not have one correct answer. Because of this, a majority of your grade will not come from what your final answer is, but rather how you arrived at that answer. Just like in a math class, the steps involved in getting to the solution are just as, if not more, important than getting to the right answer. With that in mind, always be specific and detailed when answering the questions on group projects.

Capstone Project: The Capstone project will be graded based on a standardized holistic rubric. The specific details of the paper will be given later in the semester.

Activities: Activities (both in and out of class) will be graded based on a complete/incomplete scale. Basically, you either did it or you didn't. In order to get a complete grade you will need to complete the entire assignment, follow all the relevant instructions, and give relevant answers. Different assignments will have different specific requirements, so follow the instructions and you're sure to get full points.

Groups

One of the most important skills employers look for is the ability to effectively work in groups. Because of this, you will be assigned to groups at the beginning of the semester. These groups are permanent and will be decided by the instructors.

Each group will make its own team name and be assigned a group folder that will contain group activates or other material that may be relevant to lectures. Because most classes will involve some kind of group discussion or activity, you will need to sit with the rest of your group members, even on days with lectures.

Some assignments completed in class with your group members will require only one submission per group, while others will require a submission from each member of the group. The specific instructions for each project will specify those kinds of details, so read them carefully.

Capstone project: The Study Plan

Your final project in this course will be to make a study plan that capitalizes on what you have learned in the class. You are expected to use effects of memory, attention, reasoning and any other applicable construct that has been supported by empirical research, not your own personal opinion.

Out of class experiments

Before some class periods, you will be asked to complete experiments on LaunchPad Solo for Cognitive Psychology. You can purchase an access code from the bookstore or from the link provided below.

Follow [this link](#) to the LaunchPad course site. If you are unsure you will stay in this class, choose “21 day access” option (I’d actually recommend this option to everyone, just in case).

If you need more help signing up, you can access the [student manual here](#) and there is a [quick video here](#).

These experiments are for demonstrative purposes and will not expose you to any risk beyond that of daily living.

The assignments will be listed on Canvas and available through LaunchPad. You will not be graded on how well you perform on the experiments, but you must complete all the requirements listed on Canvas to receive the points for a particular assignment.

In-Class Policies

Attendance: While attendance will not be tracked for points by the instructors, it is very important you attend class as often as you can. Your group will track attendance for later reference for peer evaluations. It may also be necessary for you to be present to participate in some in-class activities or hand in some assignments. Also keep in mind you (or someone else) is paying a lot of money for you to attend classes like this one. It’d be a waste for you to not squeeze every benefit you can from your education. Come to class.

Make-Up/Late Work: All assignments are due by the time indicated on the syllabus or Canvas. LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED. If you know ahead of time you will be gone, you must make arrangements for assignments to be completed/turned in before the due date. If you fall ill or some other extreme circumstance occurs, you will need to provide the appropriate documentation and new arrangements will be set. Again, if you know you will be gone, inform the instructors beforehand.

Participation: This class will require active participation on both lecture and activity days. This class is built to be engaging and useful, but that alone will not endow you with knowledge. You must be an active agent in your education; the structure of this course can only go so far.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities will be offered over the course of the semester and will often be distributed/announced in class (just another reason to come to class). Because all of the extra credit opportunities are, in principle, available to all students, no special consideration for extra credit will be offered on a student-by-student basis.

Class conduct: Come to class ready to learn. Please be respectful of the instructors and your fellow classmates. Discussion and debate are encouraged in this class, but remember to act appropriately if you disagree with another side of an issue or topic.

Digital technology: I'm sure you all know the drill by now. Silence your cell phones and use any digital devices for class-related purposes only.

Contacting Instructors. Contact Collin when you have a question regarding grading, assignments, exams, group work, missing class, or really anything regarding the class in particular. Mike will be available to answer additional questions about the material if his office hours work best for you. Although the instructors can be reached over Canvas, in order to get the fastest response, **EMAIL** Collin directly (cscarinc@nmsu.edu). Use the subject line "Psy340 Question Yourlastname" to get the quickest response.

Plagiarism/Cheating

Put simply, do your own work. In a course like this, where there is a mix of individual and group work, it is very important that you follow the instructions for each assignment. I will do my very best to make it clear what assignments you should do on your own (exams, quizzes, etc.), but bear in mind, even when working with your group members you should always try to actively contribute and understand the material. You aren't in this class to get another letter on your transcript; you're here to learn the content of this class. The best way to do that is to do your own work.

Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course or dismissal from the university. The NMSU Library has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>

Students with disabilities

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Trudy Luken, Director Student Accessibility Services (SAS) - Corbett Center, Rm. 244
Phone: (575) 646-6840 E-mail: sas@nmsu.edu Website: <http://sas.nmsu.edu/>

Discrimination

NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: sexual violence (sexual assault, rape), sexual harassment and retaliation.

For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX, Campus SaVE Act, NMSU Policy Chapter 3.25, NMSU's complaint process, or to file a complaint contact: Gerard Nevarez, Title IX Coordinator Agustin Diaz, Title IX Deputy Coordinator Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) - O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu Website: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~eeo/>

Withdrawals and Incompletes

The last day to drop this class and receive a refund is January 30. After that, the last day to withdraw from this class with a “W” is March 16.

University policy dictates that a student may be given an incomplete ONLY if he or she has passed the first half of the course, and is precluded from successful completion of the course by a documented illness or family crisis. The instructor decides what constitutes "precluded from successful completion". If something arises in your life that interferes with your ability to do your best in this class, contact the instructors ASAP. The sooner you talk to us, the more options we have to help you.

Other University Resources

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| NMSU Police Department: | (575) 646-3311 www.nmsupolice.com |
| NMSU Police Victim Services: | (575) 646-3424 |
| NMSU Counseling Center: | (575) 646-2731 |
| NMSU Dean of Students: | (575) 646-1722 |
| For Any On-campus Emergencies: | 911 |

Changes to the syllabus

The content of this syllabus is subject to change with appropriate notice. Any changes made to the syllabus, including class schedule, assignment due dates, and test dates, will be made to benefit the class if the pace of presenting the material is too fast or too slow.

Syllabus Quick Reference Guide

Topic: Cognitive Psychology

When and Where: 11:30 to 12:20 in GT 190

Instructors:

Collin Scarince (<- usually contact that guy with questions)

Email: cscarinc@nmsu.edu (<- and use this email. **Not Canvas!**)

Office: Science Hall 309

M 10:00-11:30, TR 10:15-11:15, or by appointment

Dr. Michael Hout

Email: mhout@nmsu.edu

Office: Science Hall 343

Stuff you need

- Required Reading: *Cognition (5th ed.)* by Ashcraft & Radvanky (The book)
- Digital Content: [LaunchPad Solo](#) (Where you do the experiments)
- Online content: [Canvas](#) (Quizzes, assignments, announcements etc.)

| % | Assessment | # | Completed | Quick description |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| | Exams | 4 (best 3) | In Class | ~20 multiple choice and ~5 short answer questions |
| | Quizzes | 16 (best 13) | Out of Class | 4 reading questions, 1 review question |
| | Group projects | 6 | In Class | Completed with your group. Turn in 1 per group |
| | Activities | ~13 (drop lowest 3) | In/Out of Class | Most are from LaunchPad Solo (see schedule) |
| | Capstone project | 1 | Out of Class | A study plan paper you'll complete by the end of the semester. You'll get chances to work on bits at a time in class. |
| | Peer Evaluations | 1 | Out of Class | A grade assigned to you by your other team members based on your contribution to group work throughout the semester. |

In-Class Policies

- Attendance is not required for points, but is highly encouraged.
 - There may be extra credit or assignments that can only be completed in class, so it's a good idea to show up.
- Late work is not accepted. Make arrangements ahead of time if you know you are going to be gone.
- Participate in class (all the cool kids are doing it).
- Be cool and respectful to everyone in the class.
- Do your own work and don't cheat.

Example peer evaluation sheet:

Rate each of your teammates on the attributes below using the following scale.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Almost no classes | A few classes | Some classes | Most classes | Every Class |
| Teammates' names -> | | | | |
| He/She was prepared for days that involved a group activity. | | | | |
| He/She attended class and found ways to contribute on days he/she was gone. | | | | |
| He/She was respectful of individual differences of opinion. | | | | |
| He/She encouraged cooperation during group activities | | | | |
| He/She communicated clearly and to the point | | | | |
| He/She kept the group focused and on-task | | | | |
| He/She was dependable and was available out of class when necessary. | | | | |
| He/She analyzed ideas rather than criticizing them. | | | | |
| He/She listened attentively and let others voice their ideas. | | | | |
| He/She was an asset to the team | | | | |
| Add each teammate's points in this row -> | | | | |
| Multiply the scores above for the total peer evaluation score in this row -> | | | | |

| Tentative Schedule | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|--------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Day | Meeting | Day | Topic | Assignment | Reading |
| F | | 16-Jan | Syllabus | | |
| M | | 19-Jan | No Class | Prequiz | |
| W | 1 | 21-Jan | Intro to the Class | Prequiz | |
| F | 2 | 23-Jan | Cognitive Science | Quiz1 | Pg 1-28 |
| M | 3 | 26-Jan | Cognitive Science | Quiz2 | pg 29-44, 48-55 |
| W | 4 | 28-Jan | Cognitive Science | Exp1 | |
| F | 5 | 30-Jan | IP Metaphor project | Read Activity | |
| M | 6 | 2-Feb | Sensory Memory | Quiz3 | pg 72-79, 102-110 |
| W | 7 | 4-Feb | Attention | Quiz4 | pg 111-123, 128-145 |
| F | 8 | 6-Feb | Attention | Exp2 | |
| M | 9 | 9-Feb | Perception | Quiz5 | pg 80-101 |
| W | 10 | 11-Feb | Perception | Exp3 | |
| F | 11 | 13-Feb | Processing activity | Read Activity | |
| M | 12 | 16-Feb | Working Memory | Quiz6 | pg 146-182 |
| W | 13 | 18-Feb | Working Memory | Exp4 | |
| F | 14 | 20-Feb | WM competition | Read Activity | |
| M | 15 | 23-Feb | Study Plan pt.1 | | |
| | | 25-Feb | No Class | Study for Exam 1 | |
| | | 27-Feb | No Class | | |
| M | | 2-Mar | <u>Exam 1</u> | | |
| W | 16 | 4-Mar | LTM | Quiz7 | pg 184-218 |
| F | 17 | 6-Mar | LTM | Quiz8, Exp5 | pg 280;296-310 |
| M | 18 | 9-Mar | LTM | Exp6 | |
| W | 19 | 11-Mar | Knowledge | Quiz9 | pg 185-186; 229-271 |
| F | 20 | 13-Mar | Procdural Knowledge | | |
| M | 21 | 16-Mar | Extreme LTM | Quiz10 | pg 57-59, 219-225 |
| W | 22 | 18-Mar | Extreme LTM | | |
| F | 23 | 20-Mar | Memory Organization | | |
| | | 23-Mar | <i>Spring Break</i> | | |
| M | 24 | 30-Mar | Imagery | Quiz11 | pg 167-170, 204-205 |
| W | 25 | 1-Apr | LTM activity | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|----|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| F | | <i>3-Apr</i> | <i>Spring Holiday</i> | | |
| M | 26 | 6-Apr | Study Plan pt.2 | | |
| W | 27 | <u>8-Apr</u> | <u>Exam 2</u> | | |
| F | 28 | 10-Apr | Language | Quiz12 | pg 320-341, 351-353 |
| M | 29 | 13-Apr | Language | Quiz13 | pg 362-369 |
| W | 30 | 15-Apr | Language Universals activity | Exp8 | |
| F | 31 | 17-Apr | Thinking | Quiz14 | pg 413-424 |
| M | 32 | 20-Apr | Decission Making | Quiz15 | pg 424-462 |
| W | 33 | 22-Apr | Decission Making | Quiz 16 | pg 464-496, 497-502 |
| F | 34 | 24-Apr | Problem Solving | Exp9 | |
| M | 34 | 27-Apr | Sherlock Activity | | |
| W | 35 | 29-Apr | Study Plan pt.3 | | |
| F | | <u>1-May</u> | <u>Exam 3</u> | | |
| W | | 6-May | Finals | 10:30- 12:30 | Capstone Project Due |