

# Cognitive Psychology Psychology 120/Cog. Sci. 100

Fall 2005

(Draft: 10/03/05)

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday 10:10 (*sharp!*) to 11:00, 105 North Gate (no Friday lecture)  
Monday sections are in Tolman 3140; Thurs. sections are in 3138.

<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	Fri. 9- - 11
Russ McBride		Russ@psyex.com	Brewed Awakenings	Thurs. 1- - 2
Whitney Goodrich		wgoodrich@berkeley.edu	Tolman 5313	Wed. 1- -2
Casey Sullivan		ksullivan@berkeley.edu	Tolman 1117	Wed. 12- -1

\* 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+	97.0% & above	B+	87.0% to 89.9%	C+	77.0% to 79.9%	D	57.0% to 66.9%
A	92.0% to 96.9%	B	82.0% to 86.9%	C	72.0% to 76.9%	F	below 57%
A-	90.0% to 91.9%	B-	80.0% to 81.9%	C-	67.0% to 71.9%		

*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. 31 to Nov. 2

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. 28 to Nov. 30

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. 5. The penalty for late papers is as follows:

by 3:00 PM Dec. 6	20 point penalty
by 3:00 PM Dec. 7	30 point penalty
by 3:00 PM Dec. 8	40 point penalty

\*\*\*No paper will be accepted after Dec. 8

### **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.**

**Thursday sections: Complete your lab by noon Monday.**

For example, if you are in a Thursday section, to do a short report for Sept. 8, you must have completed the CogLab by noon, Sept. 5. 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 did you do.
- (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 2 of them will be from the text and two from the reader.

#### **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*, Third 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.

## Special CogLab Instructions

You must follow these instructions when first accessing CogLab. If you do not follow these instructions, you may not get credit for your short report.

In the first week of section, you will be given a CogLab ID and password. For example

<u>ID</u>	<u>Password</u>
CogPsy120-180	31069739

Log on to CogLab using one of the browsers recommend in the manual:

<http://coglab.wadsworth.com/>

At the bottom of the page, under Students, you must enter your ID and password, and submit. A window "Register your account" will appear. Register with the PIN than came with your lab manual (inside cover). Only one person can use a pin.

### **Important:**

You must now change your password. The password is an 8-digit code. The first digit of the password should indicate which section you are in as in the table:

I highly recommend that the other 7 digits be something easy to remember, such as your student ID. For example, if I am in Thursday 1: PM section, and my SID is 87654321, I would change my password to 57654321. We are using the first digit of you password to track whether you have participated in the lab.

When you write up your short reports, you can return to this page to get the group averages.

First Digit	Section CCN	Section Day/Time
1	101	M 1-2
2	102	M 2-3
3	103	M 3-4
4	104	Th 12-1
5	105	Th 1-2
6	106	Th 2-3