

**King's University College
at The University of Western Ontario**

**COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
Psychology 2135a
Section 570
Fall 2011**



1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to empirical, computational, and theoretical approaches to the study of human cognitive processes. The topics surveyed will include: perception, attention, memory, concepts, language and problem-solving. The course will show how these diverse psychological processes are related to and influence one another. 4 lecture/tutorial hours, half course.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in a 1000-level Psychology course.

Antirequisite(s): Psychology 2010a/b (formerly 130a/b), Psychology 2180e (formerly 227e).

Prerequisites and Antirequisites: Unless you have either the requisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2.0 COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Laura Melnyk
Office:	Faculty Building 214
Telephone:	519.433.3491 x4545
Email:	laura@uwo.ca
Office hours:	You are welcome to drop by Mondays & Wednesdays 1.30 to 3.30 pm and by appointment

Time and location of lectures: Mondays 10.30 am to 12.15 pm, SA 150
Wednesdays 10.30 am to 12.15 pm, Wemple 166

Course website: <<http://instruct.uwo.ca/psychology/2135-570>> and accessible via WebCT

Grades will be posted on WebCT: <<http://webct.uwo.ca>>

3.0 TEXTBOOK (required)

Robinson-Riegler & Robinson-Riegler (2012). *Cognitive psychology: Applying the science of the mind*, 3rd ed. Pearson.

The text is available at the UWO bookstore and on reserve at the Cardinal Carter Library.

4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goals of Psychology 2135a are to provide students with:

1. **Knowledge** of the vocabulary, research, main theories, and concepts in cognitive psychology;
2. **Insight** into the advances in the study of human cognition;
3. **Awareness** of applications of cognitive psychology;
4. **The ability to think critically and independently** about issues in cognitive psychology.

5.0 EVALUATION

Evaluation is based on three (3) non-cumulative tests. Test 1 is worth 30% of the final grade; Test 2 and Test 3 are each worth 35% of the final grade. The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions selected from lecture and text material. Dates and details for the tests are presented below in Section 6.0. We will talk more about the tests in class.

Please note that make-up exams may consist, in part or exclusively, of essay, short-answer and/or multiple-choice questions.

To ensure fairness, final grades in this course are based on exclusively on students' performance on the three exams. Marks will not be adjusted on the basis of need, and students will not be able to improve their marks by completing additional assignments.

6.0 TEST AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Test 1 (weight = 30%) will be held in class on **Wednesday October 5 2011** and will cover the lectures from September 12 to October 3 2011 inclusive and Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Test 2 (weight = 35%) will be held in class on **Wednesday November 9 2011** and will cover the lectures from October 12 to November 7 2011 inclusive and Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Test 3 (weight = 35%) will be held during the **December 2011 exam period** at a date, time and location set and announced by the registrar's office. Test 3 will cover the lectures from November 14 to December 7 2011 inclusive and Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS: Please see section 9.0 for the policy regarding make-up examinations.

7.0 LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture	Topic	Chapter
M September 12	1	Introduction, approaches, themes	1
W September 14	2	Research methods in cognitive psychology	1
		Cognitive neuroscience	
M September 19	3	Perception and awareness	2
W September 21	4	Attention	3
M September 26	5	Immediate memory	4
W September 28	6	Immediate memory	4
M October 3	7	Immediate memory	4
W October 5		Test 1 (30%)	
W October 12	8	Object and face recognition	5
M October 17	9	Concepts, categories and knowledge representation	5
W October 19	10	Long-term memory	6
M October 24	11	Long-term memory	6
W October 26	12	Long-term memory	6
M October 31	13	Autobiographical memory	7
W November 2	14	Memory distortions	8
M November 7	15	Memory distortions	8
W November 9		Test 2 (35%)	
M November 14	16	Language	9
W November 16	17	Language	9
M November 21	18	Language: Reading	10
W November 23	19	Problem solving	11
M November 28	20	Problem solving and creativity	11
W November 30	21	Reasoning, judgment and decision making	12
M December 5	22	Reasoning, judgment and decision making	12
W December 7	23	Reasoning, judgment and decision making	12
December 2011		Test 3 (35%)	
exam period		Date, time and location to be announced by the registrar's office	

Note: There will be no class on Monday October 10 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

8.0 POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

Attendance is critical to your success in this course. Interacting and engaging in the class are vital to optimizing your experience in this course!

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class periods in any course will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

9.0 POLICY REGARDING MAKE-UP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES*

If, on medical, religious, or compassionate grounds, you are unable to write a term test or final examination on the scheduled date, please follow the instructions presented here.

You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate to the instructor and/or the academic counsellor that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds that can be documented before academic accommodation will be considered. The requirements for documentation are on the next page (page 5) of this outline.

Different regulations apply to in-class term tests and final examinations; please read the instructions below carefully. Instructors are under no obligation to offer more than one opportunity to write a make-up exam, **so in all cases, action must be taken at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the scheduled test or examination.**

MIDTERM EXAMS (IN-CLASS TERM TESTS)

1. If you are unable to write a term test, please inform your instructor prior to the scheduled date and time of the test. If the instructor is not available, leave a message on her voicemail. All messages are stamped with the date and time by the voicemail system.
2. You will be required to provide acceptable supporting documentation for your absence from the original test before a makeup test will be granted. This documentation must be presented to the Academic Dean's Office; please see the next page (page 5) of this outline for information on acceptable forms of documentation. Discuss with the instructor if and when the test can be rescheduled.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

1. You require the permission of the Dean, the instructor, and the chair of the department in question to write a special final examination.
2. If you are unable to write a final examination, please contact the Academic Dean's Office to request permission to write a special final examination and to obtain the necessary form. You should also contact your instructor at this time. You will need provide the Academic Dean's Office with acceptable supporting documentation; please see the next page (page 5) of this outline for information on acceptable forms of documentation.
3. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and department chair and that the form is returned to the Academic Dean's Office for approval.
4. Make sure you know the date, time and location of the make-up or special examination.

OTHER ISSUES

SHORT ABSENCES

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, please check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate; professors can't give personalized lectures for students who miss class. (If you miss class for a legitimate reason – e.g., a death in the family, illness – Dr. Melnyk would of course be pleased to answer questions during office hours after you have borrowed and reviewed lecture notes from a classmate.)

EXTENDED ABSENCES

If you are absent for more than approximately two weeks, or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed of your difficulties.

DOCUMENTATION

Personal illness:

As indicated in the university's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, if documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then **your documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office and not to the instructor**. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if academic accommodation is warranted.

The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and Student Medical Certificate form are available online at <<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>>.

In case of serious illness of a family member:

Obtain a medical certificate from the family member's physician.

In case of a death:

Obtain a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director.

For other extenuating circumstances:

If you are not sure what documentation to provide, please ask your instructor or an Academic Counsellor.

Note. Forged notes and certificates will be dealt with as a scholastic offense (see below) and you will be subject to academic sanctions.

10.0 PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS*

The grounds for an appeal may be one or more of: medical or compassionate circumstances, extenuating circumstances beyond the appellant's control, bias, inaccuracy, or unfairness. All grounds must be supported by a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons for the appeal together with all supporting documentation.

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor as soon as possible after a mark is issued (informal consultation). In the event that the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, or if the instructor is unavailable to the student or fails to act, a written appeal must be made to the Department Chair. The deadlines for appeals to the Department Chair are January 31 for Fall Semester marks and June 30 for Winter Semester marks. If the response of the Department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course or program was taken (with submission of written request). Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

11.0 POLICY ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

King's University College at the University of Western Ontario acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Inappropriate use of laptops during lectures creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings.

Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see
<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/files/file/about/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf>.

In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

12.0 OTHER INFORMATION

* Portions of these sections were taken from the following sources: Academic Calendar; Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations; UWO Department of Psychology Procedures for Appealing Academic Evaluations; UWO Department of History Document of Plagiarism.

Note: The policy of the University is that, when a course instructor wishes to change the evaluation procedure, as outlined in the syllabus at the beginning of the semester, prior approval must be obtained from the Dean of the faculty concerned.

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Statement on Academic Offences:

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf>

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING ARE SERIOUS SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com
<<http://www.turnitin.com>>

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Additional Information:

Support Services: The web site for Academic/Registrarial Services at King's University College is <<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-deans-office/>> and Counselling and Student Development Services are linked from <<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services>>.

Accessibility Feedback: Students with a disability, who wish to provide feedback on accessibility issues in their classes, should direct their concerns to the Human Resources Office at <KUC-AODA@uwo.ca>

Tests/Examinations: Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, **prior** to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays: Students should refer to the Senate Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbookappeals/accommodation_religious.pdf>. (See **Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities**.)

The Calendar of Religious Accommodation for the 2011-12 academic year will be available on the Equity & Human Rights Services' website at <<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg10.html>>. This Calendar shows religious holidays for which Equity and Human Rights Services has confirmed students of different faiths may require academic accommodation.

Students **must** give proper written notice for such an accommodation in accordance with the directives in the 2011-12 UWO Academic Calendar (page 18-19): <<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg119.html>>

Faculty Office Hours: Faculty office hours can be found via King's website under the "Academics" link. Hours are also posted on the bulletin board next to the Faculty Secretaries' Office on the 2nd floor of Dante Lenardon Hall.

Unless otherwise noted by your Professor, the following policies will be in effect:

- **Use of Electronic Devices.** Students are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.
- **LATE ASSIGNMENT / ESSAY Mailbox. For submission of Late Essays/Assignments ONLY. Only late essays/assignments not handed in at class may be dropped off in the green mailbox, located in the lobby of the South Annex (SA) building. The mailbox is cleared twice a day; once in the morning (9:30 am) and in the afternoon (before 4:30 pm). All essays dropped off after 4:30 pm on Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. Please ensure YOUR NAME, the PROFESSOR'S NAME, along with COURSE NUMBER are on the assignment before dropping it in the mailbox.**

July 4, 2011