

**Psy 321: Cognitive Psychology  
Fall 2017 Syllabus**

This course examines the structures and processes by which information is extracted, interpreted, stored, retrieved, and used. Topics include attention, perception, memory, imagery, language, problem solving, and reasoning. With regard to each of these topics, the major theoretical positions, relevant research findings, and specific research methods will be presented and discussed.

This course contains a lecture component and a laboratory component. All sections meet together for lecture on Monday and Wednesday. Individual sections meet separately on Thursday or Friday for labs.

**Course web page:** <http://facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje/321/321.asp>

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<b>Office hours:</b>	Monday & Wednesday 11:00-11:50 or by appointment	<b>E-mail:</b>	wendy.braje@plattsburgh.edu
		<b>web page:</b>	<a href="http://facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje">facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje</a>

**Teaching assistants:**

Mallory Studt	Sections A & B	mstud001@plattsburgh.edu
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**Course objectives:**

- Gain a working knowledge of the major areas of cognitive psychology
- Learn about the major theories and experimental findings within each area of cognitive psychology
- Understand the methods used to study cognitive psychology
- Learn to think critically and scientifically about theories of human cognition
- Experience some of the basic phenomena studied in cognitive psychology via laboratory experiments and demonstrations
- Be able to interpret data from cognitive psychology experiments
- Apply cognitive psychology findings to everyday life

**Lectures (all sections):** Yokum 202, Monday & Wednesday 10:00–10:50AM

**Labs:** Sibley 501E

<u>Section</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>TA</u>
A	Thursday	8:30	Mallory
B	Thursday	10:00	Mallory
C	Thursday	11:00	Liza
D	Thursday	12:30	Lindsey
E	Friday	10:00	Lindsey
F	Friday	11:00	Liza

**Textbooks:**

- 1) Eysenck, M.W. (2012). *Fundamentals of Cognition*, 2nd ed.
- 2) Braje, W.L. (Fall 2017). *Laboratory Manual for Cognitive Psychology*

The lab manual can be downloaded from the course web page. **Please be sure you have the Fall 2017 edition!** You must bring the manual with you to lab each week—you will lose 2 points on your lab homework if you do not have your lab manual with you during lab.

- **Attendance at all class meetings is required.**

- You are required to attend class whenever classes are in session, *including days surrounding holiday breaks*. Please plan your travels accordingly. Missing class or lab because of travel arrangements is not an acceptable excuse under ANY circumstances. Any excuses for classes/labs missed around holiday breaks will require verifiable documentation. No exceptions.
- Absences from lecture or lab will be excused if you have a valid documented excuse (e.g. a doctor's note). If you need to miss class because you are part of a college sports team or other club, please have your coach or club advisor send me a detailed list of the dates and times you will be gone.
- If you need to miss class for a valid reason, you must inform me ahead of time, or as soon as is humanly possible after missing class if your emergency is unforeseeable. If you wait to inform me, your absence will not be excused.
- Lectures: Attendance at lectures counts 5% toward your final grade. It is *your* responsibility to ensure that you have signed the attendance sheet each day. If you miss the sheet when it is passed around, make sure you come up at the end of class and sign it before you leave, otherwise you will be counted as absent. You may not under any circumstances have another person sign in for you. Doing so will be considered academic dishonesty, and you will be formally reported and lose all attendance credit for the semester.
- Labs: Attendance at labs is required; Discussion and Homework points are earned only for labs you attend.
  - You may not attend a different lab section.
  - You must arrive on time for each lab. If you arrive after the quiz has begun, you will not be allowed to take the quiz for that day. If you arrive after the lab has begun, you will not be permitted to do the lab, as this would hold up the rest of your lab section.
  - Excused labs will be made up during your lab period in the last week of classes. Only students with valid documented excuses and prior authorization will be allowed to make up labs.

**Academic honesty:**

- It is expected that all students enrolled in this class support the letter and the spirit of the Academic Honesty Policy as stated in the college catalog. Please be sure you are familiar with the Academic Honesty Policy and Cheating Policy, which can be found at [www.plattsburgh.edu/offices/academic/provost/academichonesty.php](http://www.plattsburgh.edu/offices/academic/provost/academichonesty.php).
- Ignorance or misunderstanding of what constitutes academic dishonesty will not be excused. All instances of academic dishonesty, regardless of how "minor" they may seem to you, will be reported to the college.
- All written work must be in your own words. Homework answers must be the result of your own work (do not "google" the answers). Do not work on any assignment with another student. This often results in students submitting answers that are too similar to each other. Even if this is unintentional, all students involved will be reported to the college.
- The penalty for academic dishonesty will range from a 0 on the assignment to a final grade of E in the class, depending on the offense.

**Expectations:**

- You are encouraged to ask questions, seek clarification, and offer your own reactions to material presented in class. If anything from class is unclear to you, please do not hesitate to ask in class or to drop in during office hours—It is my job to help you understand the material, and I am more than happy to take the time to do so!
- I also expect every student to behave respectfully toward me and the other students during class. This means paying attention during class, and not carrying on other conversations, texting your friends, etc. Anyone doing so will lose all attendance credit for that day and may be asked to leave the classroom. Such behavior is distracting and disrespectful to the other students and to the instructor.
- All cell phones and other communication devices must be silenced and put away during class unless you have extenuating circumstances and my prior approval.

**Personal web page:**

A personal web page will be created on the course website for every student, from which you will be able to check your grades and access other course materials. This is NOT the Moodle system, but a web page I maintain for you. You are also required to use this page to submit your homework assignments. Please contact me immediately if you have trouble accessing your page. You are responsible for checking your grade page regularly and ensuring that all assignments have been recorded accurately. If you notice a discrepancy, inform me immediately!

**Email:**

All students are expected to use their official campus email account. If you email me from something other than your campus account, it may be marked as junk/spam and I may never see it. You should plan to regularly check your campus account for email. I will use this as my official mode of communication for this class, and you are responsible for any information I send to your campus account.

**College emergencies:**

In the unlikely event that the college cancels classes due to weather or other emergencies, please check the course website and/or your campus email for announcements about changes to the course schedule.

## Grading summary:

Your final grade in this class will be based on the following:

Attendance (5%)  
3 unit exams (23.67% each = 71%)  
10 labs (2.4% each = 24%)

Final grades are determined according to the following scale:

94-100%	A	79-81.9%	C+
91-93.9%	A-	76-78.9%	C
88-90.9%	B+	73-75.9%	C-
85-87.9%	B	70-72.9%	D+
82-84.9%	B-	67-69.9%	D
		<67%	E

Please note that I do not allow students to do “extra work” to make up for poor performance on labs or exams. This would be extremely unfair to other students who are not given this opportunity.

## Exams:

There are 3 unit (non-cumulative) exams during the semester. Each exam covers material from the lectures as well as some information from the textbook. Emphasis is on lecture material. The exams consist of a combination of multiple-choice and short-essay questions. A practice exam will be given during your lab the week before each exam.

During finals week, you will be given the opportunity to retake any (or all) of the 3 exams in order to improve your grade. Additionally, if you had to miss an exam during the semester for any reason, this will serve as the time for a makeup exam – please note that I do not give any other makeup exams in this class regardless of the reason. Your score on a retake test will only count if it is higher than your original score.

Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late for an exam will not be permitted to take the exam. Please be sure to use the restroom before the exam, as you will not be allowed to leave the room once the exam has begun. Phones must be off during exams – if your phone makes noise during a test, I will collect your test and you will not be allowed to finish it.

## Laboratory activities:

Each week you will complete a laboratory activity. Before each lab, you are expected to read the introductory material in the Laboratory Manual and to review the instructions. Lab time is intended for completing the laboratory activity and for discussion, so make sure you come prepared! It is very important that you read and understand all instructions, both in the manual and on the computer screen. You are often instructed to write things down during the lab, or are given other special instructions in your manual.

Part of lecture each Monday is devoted to a consideration and discussion of the previous week’s laboratory activity and the aggregated class results. This information is necessary for completing the homework assignments. Before exam weeks, laboratory sessions are used to review for the upcoming exam.

More details about the labs can be found in your lab manual.

## Tips for doing well in this class

- Spend at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in class – at least 6-9 hours per week. This includes reading, doing homework, using the study questions, and reviewing your notes.
- Come to class on time. Arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful. You also risk missing important announcements.
- Pay attention during class. Don’t try to multitask - put your phone away and don’t talk to your neighbor or daydream. You are responsible for your own learning.
- Express your ideas clearly on assignments. Don’t assume I will be able to figure “what you mean.” Precision and clarity are important!
- Read the questions carefully on the homework and exams. Some homework questions have multiple parts – be sure to answer all of them. Exam questions are often very specific – do not just write everything you know about a topic.
- Understand the material, don’t just memorize it. Memorizing a definition or a statement is not the same as understanding the material! You should be able to explain the course concepts to a friend who is not in the class.
- See additional test-taking tips on my website: [facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje/testhelp.asp](http://facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje/testhelp.asp)
- See more general student tips on my website: [facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje/misc.asp](http://facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje/misc.asp)

## SCHEDULE

You are expected to complete the assigned readings *before* we discuss them in class each week. Changes to this schedule will be announced in class.

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter	Lab (Thursday/Friday)	Due before lab
8/28	Introduction	1		
8/30	Introduction	1	Lab 1. Reaction Time; Quiz 1	
9/4	Recognition	2		
9/6	Recognition	2	Lab 2. Mental Rotation; Quiz 2	Lab 1 Homework
9/11	Imagery	2		
9/13	Perception and awareness	2	Lab 3. Consciousness; Quiz 3	Lab 2 Homework
9/18	Consciousness	3		
9/20	Attention	3	<b>Exam 1 Review; Quiz 4</b>	Lab 3 Homework
9/25	Attention	3		
9/27	<b>EXAM 1 (Ch 1-3)</b>		Lab 4. Short-term Memory; NO QUIZ	NO HOMEWORK
10/2	Short-term and working memory	4		
10/4	Short-term and working memory	4	Lab 5. Levels of Processing; Quiz 5	Lab 4 Homework
10/9	<b>Fall Break – no class</b>			
10/11	Long-term memory	5	Lab 6. Encoding Specificity; Quiz 6	Lab 5 Homework
10/16	Long-term memory	5		
10/18	Memory disorders	5	Lab 7. False Memory; Quiz 7	Lab 6 Homework
10/23	Eyewitness memory	6		
10/25	Autobiographical memory	6	<b>Exam 2 Review; Quiz 8</b>	Lab 7 Homework
10/30	Mnemonics			
11/1	<b>EXAM 2 (Ch 4-6)</b>		Lab 8. Semantic Memory; NO QUIZ	NO HOMEWORK
11/6	Knowledge/Semantic memory	7		
11/8	Reading	8	Lab 9. Comprehension; Quiz 9	Lab 8 Homework
11/13	Comprehension	8		
11/15	Problem solving	10	Lab 10. Creativity; Quiz 10	Lab 9 Homework
11/20	Creativity	n/a		
11/22	<b>Thanksgiving Break – no class</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Break – no labs</b>	NO HOMEWORK
11/27	Judgment	11		
11/29	Decision making	11	<b>Exam 3 Review; NO QUIZ</b>	Lab 10 Homework
12/4	Reasoning	11		
12/6	<b>EXAM 3 (Ch 7-11)</b>		Make-up labs and quizzes (for students with prior approval)	NO HOMEWORK
<b>Finals Week</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Make-up and Retake Exams</b> – Check Banner for schedule</span>				