

Syllabus

PSYC 3303-301: Thinking and Cognitive Processes

Instructor: Dr. Rick Dale

Office: 442 Psychology Building

Office hours: Tuesdays, 11-1

Phone: 678-4938

E-mail: radale@memphis.edu

Website: <http://cia.psyc.memphis.edu/rad/>

Fall 2007

Mondays and Wednesdays: 9:10-10:35

244 Psychology Building

Course website:

<http://cia.psyc.memphis.edu/rad/3303/>

Course description

This course supplies an overview of the fields and topics of cognitive psychology/ cognitive science, including perception and attention, memory, language, problem solving, reasoning, and decision making. Because this is an honors course, you will also engage in activities to enhance your depth of understanding, including discussions and debate, short essays, hands-on activities in a computer lab, and a field trip (that's right!).

Textbook / readings

Thagard, P. (2005). *Mind: Introduction to Cognitive Science*. MIT Press.

NB: You will occasionally be given short academic journal articles to supplement the textbook. These will be challenging, but will give you experience with authentic psychological research articles.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined three ways: exercises, participation, and papers. Some details are supplied below. Further expectations for each part will be described in class as the term proceeds.

Exercises (**30%**) will include in-class **hands-on activities** (e.g., when we're in the computer lab). Participation (**20%**) includes your (occasional) **contributions** to class discussion and **attendance** (including not just how much *you* participate, but also how well you encourage your peers to contribute). There will be **three papers** written in this class (**50%**). **2 short papers** will be due in the first half of the term, then **a larger final paper** at the end of the term (2 weeks prior to this paper, I will ask for a 1-page **proposal** on your topic). All papers will be based on your reading, discussion, and on the exercises conducted in class.

Class communication

Course announcements as well as consultation with the instructor **may occur via e-mail messages**. Each student must maintain an e-mail account and is responsible for checking for course messages on a regular basis. Students are also responsible for notifying the instructor if their e-mail address changes during the term. The University of Memphis offers free e-mail services to students.

Important Notices

Plagiarism or cheating may result in your case being referred to the Academic Discipline Committee that addresses academic misconduct. This decision is up to the discretion of the instructor. Students are expected at all times to behave in accordance with the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students should be familiar with the academic regulations outlined in the Student Bulletin of the University of Memphis and to observe policies regarding student conduct published in the Student Handbook.

Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of minority perspectives and voices, and the appreciation of different cultural and socioeconomic group practices. We aspire to foster and maintain an atmosphere that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Academic courses will aim at providing opportunities for students to discuss issues of diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity, gender, disability and sexual orientation as they can be related to course content. The University of Memphis has adopted policies prohibiting discrimination based upon race, sex, disability, or sexual orientation. In addition, the American Psychological Association has explicit policies regarding the issues of and writing about race, gender, class, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, and religion. You may find information on these standards in the APA Publication Manual or on the APA webpage: <http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/>.

If you have a disability that interferes with completion of this course, please let the instructor know privately at the beginning of the course, and s/he will seek consultation on how best to adapt course materials or instruction. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services for the university at 678-2880.