

San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 135, Cognition, Section 2, Fall, 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Dr. Evan M. Palmer
Office Location:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 316
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Email:	evan.palmer@sjsu.edu [← Best way to reach me!]
Office Hours:	Tues / Thurs 11:00 am – 12:00 pm [via Zoom or in person] (Office hours are a time every week when I will hang out in my office and be available to talk to any student who wants to visit. You can ask questions about the course or review material with me, we could talk about grad school or your career, or just chat!)
Class Days/Time:	Tues / Thurs 3:00 – 4:15 pm
Classroom:	Clark 117
Prerequisites:	PSYC 1

Course Description

The field of cognitive psychology attempts to answer the question “How does the mind work?” by examining its information processing capabilities and limitations. Through laboratory experiments, theorizing, and computational modeling, cognitive psychology illuminates mental activities such as perception, memory, attention, mental imagery, thinking, reasoning, problem solving, decision making, and language.

From catalog: The activity of knowing: acquisition, organization and use of knowledge. Processes involved in that activity, including perception, memory, thinking and language. Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) to learn of any updates.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

PLO1. *Knowledge Base of Psychology*: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

- **CLO1.** Demonstrate knowledge of the different components of cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, and decision making
- **CLO2.** Identify the cognitive mechanisms that underlie behavior

PLO2. *Research Methods in Psychology*: Students will understand basic methodological approaches used in psychology, including research design, analysis, and interpretation.

- **CLO3.** Describe different research methods used in cognitive psychology research
- **CLO4.** Infer appropriate conclusions from cognitive psychology research
- **CLO5.** Communicate findings and implications from cognitive psychology research

PLO3. *Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology:* Students will understand and be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

- **CLO6.** Synthesize evidence in favor of arguments pertaining to debates in cognitive psychology
- **CLO7.** Evaluate and criticize arguments pertaining to issues in cognitive psychology

PLO4. *Application of Psychology:* Students will understand and be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

- **CLO8.** Articulate how concepts in cognitive psychology apply to their everyday lives

PLO5. *Values in Psychology:* Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

- **CLO9.** Respect the relative nature of empirical evidence
- **CLO10.** Recognize the value of intellectual curiosity and skepticism

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Cognitive Psychology and its Implications (9th Ed.) by John R. Anderson (ISBN13: 9781319106959).

[Note: 8th Edition (ISBN: 1464148910) is OK too.]

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

You will need reliable access to the internet to access Canvas and receive e-mails about the course. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas site. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through one.sjsu.edu.

Library Liaison

Christa Bailey, christa.bailey@sjsu.edu, [web link](#).

Course Requirements and Assignments

Chapter Quizzes: There will be a 10-question quiz covering each chapter of the textbook, administered on Canvas after the lectures for the chapter have concluded. These quizzes are intended to be completed without referencing your book or notes! You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz, so make sure to study before starting. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Research Paper: Find a news article that references one of the cognitive topics we cover in the course (e.g., perception, attention, thinking, memory, decision making, language) and analyze it from a scientific perspective. Example news article topics are eyewitness memory, artificial intelligence, financial decision making, expertise, or second language acquisition. You must find at least two peer-reviewed journal articles on the topic of the article and include them in your analysis as the source material for the scientific perspective. What does the news article get right and what does it get wrong, in terms of the science? Papers should adhere to APA style for citations and be minimum 1,500 words long. The paper is due Sunday, December 4, 2022 by 11:59 PM and will be submitted on Canvas where it will be plagiarism-checked by TurnItIn.

Exams: Exam 1 will be given on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 in class, and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 1-4. Exam 2 will be given on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 in class and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 5-8. Exam 3 will be given on Friday, December 9, 2022 in class and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 9, 11, 12, and 14. All exams will require a skinny green scantron sheet (50 questions per side).

Make-Up Policy: Exams can be made-up but only if 1) I am contacted ahead of time, and/or 2) there are extraordinary circumstances (e.g., family death, accident, severe illness) that caused you to miss the regularly scheduled exam. Extraordinary circumstances require documentation.

Late Assignment Policy: All assignments will be penalized 20% for every day they are late.

Extra Credit: Extra credit (up to 3% added to your final grade) can be earned by attending various talks at SJSU throughout the semester. Specifically, you may earn 1% extra credit for attending the Psychology Forum talk sessions in September, October, and November (times/locations TBA), and the annual Kazdin Lecture. You will write up a short description of the event and at least TWO things you learned from it and submit the description to Canvas. If you are not able to attend, an alternative assignment will also be available. Extra credit must be turned in by the last day of classes (December 6, 2022 by 11:59 PM).

Review and Preparation Activities: In addition to engagement with the learning environment of the classroom, you will be required to independently prepare yourself for future classes by various out of class review and preparation activities. The university definition of a credit hour suggests that “Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

Exam 3 will be given on Friday, December 9, 2022 in class and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering chapters 9, 11, 12, and 14.

Grading Information

Grade Breakdown:

- 22% Chapter Quizzes – 11 best scores on 12 Chapter Quizzes (lowest grade dropped)
- 18% Research Paper
- 60% 3 Exams

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A+	96.50 – 100%
A	92.50 – 96.49%
A-	89.50 – 92.49%
B+	86.50 – 89.49%
B	82.50 – 86.59%
B-	79.50 – 82.49%
C+	76.50 – 79.49%
C	72.50 – 76.49%
C-	69.50 – 72.49%
D+	66.50 – 69.49%
D	62.50 – 66.49%
D-	59.50 – 62.49%
F	≤ 59.49%

Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to exhibit professionalism and respect for each other and the instructor. Specifically, this means arriving to class on time, being prepared for class, participating in discussions, being civil to your fellow classmates and instructor, and paying attention to in-class demonstrations and lectures. If you arrive late to class or need to leave early from class, please sit near the door so as not to disturb the rest of the class. Please silence and put away cell phones during class. If I see that you are using your cell phone during lecture, I will ask you to put it away. Repeated violations of the cell phone policy may result in further disciplinary action. You may record lectures only if you obtain my permission first, and such recordings are only to be used for personal study and may not be posted online.

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate any forms of academic dishonesty in my courses. I take issues of academic dishonesty very seriously and pursue disciplinary action rigorously, so please take extra care to avoid this sort of unpleasant situation. All writing assignments will be checked for plagiarism by TurnItIn on Canvas. Plagiarized assignments automatically receive a score of 0 in this course. Any incidents of cheating on exams result in an automatic grade of 0 for the exam. If the academic dishonesty is particularly egregious, you may receive an automatic F in the course. All incidents of academic dishonesty are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development (SCED) and students may appeal any accusations of academic dishonesty through SCED.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are

listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

PSYC 135 / Cognition

Fall, 2022

Course Schedule

(Schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class or via email.)

Date	Topic	Readings
Tues, 8/23	Introduction/The Science of Cognition	Anderson Ch. 1
Thurs, 8/25	Introduction/The Science of Cognition	Anderson Ch. 1
Tues, 8/30	Perception	Anderson Ch. 2
Thurs, 9/1	Perception	Anderson Ch. 2
Tues, 9/6	Perception	Anderson Ch. 2
Thurs, 9/8	Attention & Performance	Anderson Ch. 3
Tues, 9/13	Attention & Performance	Anderson Ch. 3
Thurs, 9/15	Attention & Performance	Anderson Ch. 3
Tues, 9/20	Mental Imagery	Anderson Ch. 4
Thurs, 9/22	Mental Imagery	Anderson Ch. 4
Tues, 9/27	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)	
Thurs, 9/29	Representation of Knowledge	Anderson Ch. 5
Tues, 10/4	Representation of Knowledge	Anderson Ch. 5
Thurs, 10/6	Human Memory: Encoding and Storage	Anderson Ch. 6
Tues, 10/11	Human Memory: Encoding and Storage	Anderson Ch. 6
Thurs, 10/13	Human Memory: Retention and Retrieval	Anderson Ch. 7
Tues, 10/18	Human Memory: Retention and Retrieval	Anderson Ch. 7
Thurs, 10/20	Human Memory: Retention and Retrieval	Anderson Ch. 7
Tues, 10/25	Problem Solving	Anderson Ch. 8
Thurs, 10/27	Problem Solving	Anderson Ch. 8
Tues, 11/1	Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8)	
Thurs, 11/3	Expertise	Anderson Ch. 9
Tues, 11/8	Expertise	Anderson Ch. 9
Thurs, 11/10	Decision Making	Anderson Ch. 11
Tues, 11/15	Decision Making	Anderson Ch. 11
Thurs, 11/17	Language Structure	Anderson Ch. 12
Tues, 11/22	Language Structure	Anderson Ch. 12
Thurs, 11/24	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Tues, 11/29	Individual Differences in Cognition	Anderson Ch. 14
Thurs, 12/1	Individual Differences in Cognition	Anderson Ch. 14
Sun, 12/4 by 11:59 PM	Research Paper Due	Submit to Canvas
Tues, 12/6	Catch-Up and Review	
Fri, 12/9 2:45 – 5:00 PM	Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 11, 12, 14)	