

Syllabus for Cognitive Science P140C (68530) & P192G (50930)

Time/Location

12:30 – 1:50pm, Tues/Thurs., RH 101, Winter Quarter 2007

Instructor

Mark Steyvers

Office: Social Sciences Building A, room 2109

Email: msteyver@uci.edu

Office hours: Friday 10:30-11:30am, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant

Assal Habibi

Office: Social Sciences Lab (SSL) 402

Email: habibia@uci.edu

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 5-6pm

Course Description

This is a core course in the psychology major and introduces students to research in cognitive science with an emphasis on experimental cognitive psychology. We will address three broad questions. How do we acquire knowledge? How do we retain knowledge? How do we use knowledge? Throughout the course, we will discuss experimental findings in areas such as perception, attention, memory, reasoning, and problem solving. Explanations for these findings will come from an interdisciplinary perspective, providing insights from experimental cognitive psychology as well as computer science, and cognitive neuroscience. This course serves as an introduction to additional courses in the learning and cognition area. This course is *not* intended to be a special-topic course for students who seek to gain in-depth knowledge in specific areas of cognitive science.

Required Text

Smith, E.E., & Kosslyn, S.M. (2007). *Cognitive Psychology: Mind and Brain*. Pearson, Prentice Hall.

Course Website

<http://psiexp.ss.uci.edu/research/teachingP140C/> (note: capital P and C)

This website contains updates to the syllabus, advance copies of the lectures, information on the writing assignments, and additional course material.

Lectures

The format of the course will be lectures and discussion. The lectures will be given in PowerPoint format. In general, copies of each lecture will be posted on the course website a day before the lecture: around 8pm on Monday for the Tuesday lecture and 8pm on Wednesday for the Thursday lecture.

Add-Drop policy

This course uses the TELE add/drop system. Students will not be allowed to add this course after the second week of classes. Students who add this course after the first class meeting will be responsible for making up the readings and learning about the material covered in missed lectures. Students may not drop the course or change their grading option after the fifth week of classes except for verified medical excuses.

Grading Basis

There will be two exams and three writing assignments. The writing assignments consist of relatively short two-three page papers on a variety of cognitive science topics. The exams will cover material from the textbook as well some material unique to the lectures. The final exam is **not** cumulative. Both the midterm and final exam will consist of multiple choice questions.

Weighting of exams and writing assignments:

Final	40%
Midterm	30%
Writing Assignment #1	10%
Writing Assignment #2	10%
Writing Assignment #3	10%

The final score for the class will be calculated on a total point basis with a 100 point maximum. No extra credit can be obtained in this class through participation in experiments or other projects.

Points to grade conversion

Total class points	Grade	Total class points	Grade
≥ 96.5	A+	≥ 76.5	C+
≥ 93.5	A	≥ 73.5	C
≥ 90	A-	≥ 70	C-
≥ 86.5	B+	≥ 66.5	D+
≥ 83.5	B	≥ 63.5	D
≥ 80	B-	≥ 60	D-
		≥ 0	F

Missed Exams

Missing an exam or writing assignment is strongly discouraged. Under extreme and well-documented circumstances, a missed exam will be handled in the following way. A different version of the missed exam will be administered *during the final exam period*. This means the student will have to complete both the final and the missed exam during the final exam period. No extra time will be given. In addition, a 6 page, double-spaced research paper on a topic related to material covered on the missed exam, must be turned in on the day of the final. The research paper must be based on, and cite a minimum of five original research articles. This research paper will be graded on a pass-fail basis, and must be passed in order for the score on the make up exam to count towards the final grade.

Posting Grades

Grades will be posted on your MyEEE page (see <http://eee.uci.edu/>). An email notification will be sent out when new scores have been posted.

Writing assignments

There are three writing assignments. Details will be posted on the website. Each of these assignments is worth 10% of your grade. The assignments have to be submitted through the *DropBox* utility on *MyEEE* (see below). Handwritten or emailed answers will not be accepted. Automatic deadlines for the three assignments have been set at 1/23, 1/30 and 3/8 all at 12pm. Please submit your document in either Word (preferred) or PDF format.

If you would like to collaborate with other students (i.e., turn in the same text for a group of students), that is acceptable. Please keep your collaboration to two or three students (including yourself). If you do collaborate, write the assignment together and put all your names plus student ID's on the assignment. Also, each student should separately submit the assignment to the Dropbox.

Access to the electronic dropbox:

If you are unfamiliar with the dropbox system, please follow the following instructions: <http://eee.uci.edu/help/student/dropbox/how-to/>

Class Schedule and Readings

Note, the class schedule is subject to change. The class web page will have the up to date schedule.

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Activity
1	1/9	Introduction	Ch. 1	
	1/11	Brain & Neural Networks		
2	1/16	Perception	Ch. 2	
	1/18			
3	1/23	Attention	Ch. 3	Writing Assignment #1 due in electronic DropBox (12pm deadline)
	1/25			
4	1/30	Imagery and Knowledge Representation	Ch. 4	Writing Assignment #2 due in electronic DropBox (12pm deadline)
	2/1			
5	2/6	--		MIDTERM covers Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 4 Please bring pencil and scantron form F-288
	2/8	Encoding and Retrieval	Ch. 5	
6	2/13			
7	2/20	Decision Making	Ch. 6 (partially)	
	2/22			
8	2/27	NO CLASS		
	3/1	Problem Solving	Ch. 10	
9	3/6			
10	3/8	Language	Ch. 11	Writing Assignment #3 due in electronic DropBox (12pm deadline)
	3/13			
	3/15	Executive Processes	Ch. 7 (partially)	
11	3/23	10:30 am - 12:30 p.m.		FINAL EXAM covers Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Please bring pencil and scantron form F-288