Facility: Dr. A. Fuzz Griffiths
Email: griffithsa@wpunj.edu
Office hours: In person office hours can be arranged by appointment.

Required Text:


You will also need the Coglab 2.0 CD which is included in the bundle available at the bookstore. Alternatively, you can purchase an access code for online use of Coglab.

You will need a fast internet connection (not a modem based) to write the tests. If you do not have a fast home-based internet connection, take the tests for this course on campus or at your local town library. My experience with online courses suggests that slow dial-up connections will not work for test-taking. In addition, you should be aware that Blackboard doesn’t support the AOL web browser, so please don’t try to use AOL’s browser – open a new window using Internet Explorer instead.

Contacting me:

When contacting me always include in the subject line **PSY 375-80** – I will then give the message priority in responding to you.

I am usually online at least once every weekday and some weekends. Do not send me emails at midnight and become anxious when you don’t hear from me by 6am! Be patient, and I will get to each email in turn.

If you have questions about the material please check the Q & A Discussion Board on Blackboard – if you are puzzled by something, chances are good that some of your fellow students will be as well.

*Important: Think carefully about your choice to complete an online class. Many students believe that an online course is less demanding than a face-to-face course. This is definitely not the case! Students are often surprised by the effort it takes to do well in this class. Online classes require intrinsic motivation, self-discipline and dedication. You must do a lot of reading on your own and keep up with the assignments since no one will be reviewing the material with you in person. Online classes also require active participation unlike some face-to-face classes where you can sit in the back row and get by without getting involved.*

*Think through your decision to take this online course carefully. It is demanding. I anticipate, however, that if you put in the time and effort you will find it a rewarding experience.*
**Course Description:**

This course will introduce you to the field of cognitive psychology. During this course we will examine the processes involved in the perception of information from the environment, the processing of this information, its storage in memory, and its subsequent retrieval and use for everyday problem-solving. We will also examine some of the research that have had significant influence in the development of cognitive psychology as a field of study.

**Course Objectives:**

At the completion of this course you should

a. Know the history of cognitive psychology
b. Understand the scientific methodologies used to study cognition
c. Have good knowledge of the processes involved in pattern recognition, attention, memory, language, and problem-solving
d. Be able to understand and evaluate theoretical perspectives associated with different cognitive processes

**Course Expectations:**

a. This is a *very intense reading* course. You are expected to keep up to date with the readings, approximately 4 chapters a week.
b. You are expected to post to the discussion board frequently, in accordance with the deadlines on the schedule.
c. You are expected to ask questions.
d. Test dates are given in the course schedule. There are no make-up tests given. You must take the test by the date specified. There are no exceptions.
e. You are required to write a term paper.
Grading and other methods for assessing student academic performance:

All assessment are due by midnight (EST) on the due date posted on the schedule.

There are 11 quizzes, worth a total of 65% towards your final grade. Tests are based on the material in this syllabus and your text. Test format is multiple choice. There will be one test for each chapter that we cover. You will have 20 minutes to complete the 12 questions on each chapter. You will be given immediate feedback as to your performance on these tests.

Ten percent of your final grade is determined by your participation on the discussion board. For each chapter you are expected to do the following:

1) Answer each of my questions in the discussion forums. Your postings should be well thought out and always provide complete arguments / support for your position, and

2) Comment on someone else’s postings, or on something in the chapter you found interesting, or post a question of your own. Again the quality of your response is important. Saying you agree or disagree with person X is insufficient – you need to specify your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing. You can also extend another’s posting by providing additional information.

Therefore, you need to post at least two times for each chapter, to be eligible for full credit.

Late postings will not be given credit. No exceptions.

While I will read your postings on a regular basis, I will not respond to every single comment. Students have a lot to offer and teach each other and I’m looking to see that you can have discussions without my guiding your every step. Be assured that I will read everything and will be involved in each discussion but I am looking for your initiative here. The requirements listed above are the bare minimum; however I am encouraging you to contribute at a much higher level than this. Posting before the due date is highly encouraged. Participating in the discussion will help you all understand the material, and this will lead to higher quiz scores.

Ten percent of your grade will come from completing the five Coglab experiments (2% each). For each experiment, you are required to read the materials and collect your own data. You will then need to discuss the experiment on the discussion board, in a separate forum provided for each Coglab experiment. This is graded separately from the regular discussion board forum.

Fifteen percent of your final grade will come from writing a term paper on an issue relevant to one of the topics covered in cognitive psychology. Full details of the requirements for this paper (including a paper proposal with sources) are posted online. Papers are to be submitted in Word format via Blackboard. Please be advised that all papers will be submitted to turnitin.com. Any form of plagiarism will result in an F on the paper.

So, to summarize, you need to complete a syllabus quiz (10 questions), a quiz (12 questions) and discussion board postings for each of 10 chapters, five coglab experiments and associated discussion board postings, and one term paper.

There is no “curve” for this class. A is 90%, B is 80%, C is 70% etc.
Class Policies

*Respect*: Even in an online environment, mutual respect is necessary for productive learning. This involves making the environment as user-friendly as possible. Examples include: completing assignments on time in order to be prepared to discuss the forum’s topics, being an involved participant, and respecting another person’s opinion even if it differs from your own is also essential for a constructive dialogue. Please do not post disparaging or panicked messages in the discussion board as this takes away from our collective learning experience.

One of the things I have noticed is that in the online environment we do not seem to have the same boundaries we do in the classroom. Part of this likely stems with our easy familiarity with emails, text messaging and the like – we are used to doing things in a shorthand manner. Please be aware of your online behavior. Ask yourself: is what you are writing potentially hurtful to someone – e.g. “How anyone could think like that I don’t know!” – Edit your writings – this is not a forum for stream of consciousness musings.

**Personal responsibility**

You are expected to take personal responsibility for your learning in this class. This is done by: reading all required material, being prepared for discussions, completing assignments, and being a team player. If you do not understand something, you need to take the initiative to post a question on the class discussion board and then contact me if you can’t find the answer. I am always happy to talk to students and am often able suggest additional resources to support your learning efforts if needed. You can contact me via email, or you may set up another time to meet with me in person. You do not need to have a major problem or question to set up a meeting.

**Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to abide by the University’s policy on Academic Honesty which is outlined on the WPUNJ website:

[http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad_2001_03/CatalogFront/AcademicRegulations.pdf](http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad_2001_03/CatalogFront/AcademicRegulations.pdf)

Cheating, plagiarism, collusion and lying are serious violations and students should understand fully what constitutes each. Students’ work is routinely checked to ensure that this policy is enforced. If you are unsure about any definitions or have questions, please ask before you take a chance!

One thing instructors have noted over the past few of years of online instruction is that students seem to think they can look up the answers for the test while actually taking the test – I will save you the experience – you cannot. You do not have the time to look up information during the test – 20 minutes to answer 12 questions is generous if you know the material but if you do not know the material you will get only about 5 questions answered. So, please do not even try to go this route; experience has shown that it cannot be done.