SYLLABUS
Psychology 0421, Spring 2002
Cognitive Psychology
Frick Fine Arts 125
11:00 - 12:50 Tuesday

Instructor: Christian Schunn, Ph.D.
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WWW: http://courseweb.pitt.edu/
http://cwx.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/willingham/

Office Hours: Before or after class or by appointment
Course Prerequisite: Psy035, Research Methods
Required Text:
Cognition: The Thinking Animal, by Daniel B. Willingham (lectures)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course will introduce some of the major issues, theories, and experimental findings in cognitive psychology. Topics to be covered include sensory perception, attention, memory, imagery, language, reasoning, and problem solving. The format will be primarily lecture and in-class discussion. You will be expected to understand the facts and theories of cognitive psychology and also the research methods used in cognitive psychology — in other words, how human cognition can be studied scientifically, and why the results of experimental investigations support particular theories of human cognition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Material covered: Lectures will largely coincide with topics covered in the text. However, there will be material in the lectures not covered in the text, and vice-versa. The exams will primarily test your knowledge and understanding of the material covered in the lectures, but there may be a few questions related to material found only in the text. In the exams you will be asked to interpret novel experiments and materials in the exams, based upon your understanding of the key concepts and experiments presented in the lectures; mere memorization of the “facts” presented in the course will not be sufficient to receive a high grade in the course.

Extra credit: Extra credit opportunities may be assigned occasionally.

Grading/Exams: There will be two in-class exams, and a final non-cumulative exam. These exams will consist of multiple-choice and matching questions.

Your overall grade will be based on the following:
- Midterm Exam 1: 33%
- Midterm Exam 2: 33%
- Final Exam: 34%

Policy on late work, make-ups: No late work or make-up exams will be accepted unless there has been a documented medical illness or family emergency, or prior arrangement made at least one week in advance with the instructor. To make-up an in-class exam, you may be given an additional take-home portion that will involve extra reading and critical review.

Policy on cheating and plagiarism: Cheaters will receive a failing grade for the course. Suspected cheaters may be asked to answer additional questions or to re-take all or part of an exam. The final grade for an exam may be based on this additional testing.
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