

San José State University
Department of Psychology
Psychology 135 – Cognition
Section 81, Summer, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Evan M. Palmer
Office Location:	316 Dudley Moorhead Hall
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Office Hours:	By appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mon/Wed 1:00 – 2:15 PM + Asynchronous Lectures
Classroom:	Your choice! (Online Class)
Prerequisites:	PSYC 1 (General Psychology)

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.

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

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook:

Cognitive Psychology and its Implications (8th Ed.) by John R. Anderson (ISBN: 1464148910).

Other technology requirements

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 course website, accessible through <http://one.sjsu.edu>.

Course & Program Learning Outcomes

Goal 1. Knowledge Base of Psychology: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in cognitive psychology.

Goal 2. Research Methods in Psychology: Students will understand basic methodological approaches used in cognitive psychology, including research design, analysis, and interpretation.

Goal 3. 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.

Goal 4. Application of Psychology: Students will understand and be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

Goal 5. Values in Psychology: Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Requirements and Grading Information

Grade Breakdown:

100% 10 Chapter Tests

Grading Scale (I round up .5 and higher to next percentage):

97 – 100%	A+
93 – 96%	A
90 – 92%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
67 – 69%	D+
63 – 66%	D
60 – 62%	D-
≤ 59%	F

Chapter Tests: There will be a test for each chapter (20-30 questions), administered on Canvas. I will drop your lowest test grade.

Make-Up Tests: Given that this is an online class, you can take the tests when it is convenient for you. I do not expect that there will be any make-up tests for this class.

Late Assignment Policy: All assignments will be penalized 20% for every day they are late. This means that after 5 days, all assignments are worth 0 points and can no longer be made up

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, participating in class, engaging in civil discussion, 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. You may record lectures only if you obtain my permission first.

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, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

PSYC 135 / Cognition

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Course Schedule

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

Course Schedule:

Date	Discussion and Demos	Anderson Text
Mon, 7/6	Course Intro, Enrollment, History and Methods	Ch 1
Wed, 7/8	Perception	Ch 2
Mon, 7/13	Attention	Ch 3
Wed, 7/15	Knowledge Representations	Ch 5
Mon, 7/20	Memory I – Encoding & Storage	Ch 6
Wed, 7/22	Memory II – Retention & Retrieval	Ch 7
Mon, 7/27	Problem Solving	Ch 8
Wed, 7/29	Expertise	Ch 9
Mon, 8/3	Judgment and Decision Making	Ch 11
Wed, 8/5	Language	Ch 12

Chapter	Test Due Date
1 - Introduction	7/8
2 – Perception	7/10
3 – Attention	7/15
5 – Knowledge Representations	7/17
6 – Memory I	7/22
7 – Memory II	7/24
8 – Problem Solving	7/29
9 – Expertise	7/31
11 – JDM	8/5
12 – Language	8/7