

PSYC*2650 - COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2025 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This course is an introduction to cognitive processes, including topics in the areas of attention, memory, language and reasoning. Students will be exposed to and participate in online laboratory demonstrations and experiments.

Prerequisite(s): PSYC*1000

Restriction(s): This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs or semester levels during certain periods.

Department(s): Department of Psychology

Course Description

This is a survey course that is designed to help you develop a broad understanding of what we have learned about the mind through psychological research, and the main types of experiments used in this research.

The course is fully in person. There are no remote options for assessments or lectures.

If you would like to contact the course instructor or TAs, please follow the guidelines below.

Lecture Schedule

September 8 – November 24: Mondays 7:00pm – 9:50pm in ROZH 101

Friday November 28: 7:00pm – 9:50pm in ROZH 101

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Michelle Dollois, Ph.D.

Instructor Email: mdollois@uoguelph.ca

Office Location: MCKN Extension room 4022

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-11am in-person

Thursdays 4-5pm virtual

Office hours are subject to change. Weekly office hours will be kept updated in CourseLink announcements with link to virtual hour.

When sending an email to the course instructor please make sure to type the course code (i.e., PSYC 2650) into the Subject heading of the email and use your University of Guelph issued email address. Email messages not adhering to these conditions are likely to be missed and may not receive a response. If you are unable to attend office hours, content questions should be directed to assigned TAs (see below).

Teaching Assistant (TA) Information

Name	Email	For students with last names
Katherine Churey	kchurey@uoguelph.ca	A-Ci
Serena Bunin	sbunin@uoguelph.ca	Co-G
Hadisa Azizi Zawar	haziziza@uoguelph.ca	H-N
Emmylou Hentschke	emmylou@uoguelph.ca	O-Z

Course Resources

Textbook

Title	Author	Edition	ISBN	Price
Cognition (eBook access code)	Reisberg	8 th	9780393877595	\$116.25
Cognition (paperback)	Reisberg	8 th	9780393877601	\$172.95
Cognition (looseleaf)	Reisberg	8 th	9780393877618	\$138.50

Three versions of the textbook have been made available through the University Bookstore. Prices reflect University Bookstore rates. All new copies of the textbook come with access to additional digital resources. Use of these resources is not required, but only new copies are available from the Bookstore.

Library Course Reserve (Ares)

A physical copy of the course textbook has been placed on reserve at the Library. For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit: [Course Reserves](#)

If at any point during the course you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, follow the Contact us link at the bottom of the page linked above or visit: [Course Reserve Questions](#)

Top Hat

This course will be using *Top Hat*. Top Hat is a web-based platform that allows for in class polling and quizzes. It will be used to make classes more interactive and to assess comprehension. Some responses on Top Hat will contribute to final grades in the course. More details about the graded Top Hat questions can be found below in the Assessments section. You will **not** need a Top Hat account for the first class.

CourseLink

This course will use CourseLink to share important information, content, and updates. Information that will be found on CourseLink include:

- Grades for all assessments
- Lecture slides and additional class materials; lecture slides will be posted prior to each lecture
- Bonus quizzes will be hosted through the quiz feature
- Discussion boards where content questions can be asked and class notes can be requested

Campus Resources

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

There are numerous academic resources offered by [the Learning Commons](#) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or struggling with your mental health:

[Student Wellness](#) provides services including same-day drop in counselling and the student support network. Appointments are offered in-person, by phone, or by video.

If you are a student with disabilities:

[Student Accessibility Services](#) can provide accommodations that ensure full and equitable access to academic life. If you require accommodations, register with SAS **as soon as possible** so that all processing can be complete **before** you need it. See the *Accessibility* section below for more information about SAS.

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program:

Make an appointment with an [Academic Advisor](#) in your degree program.

Specific Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome 1: Critical and Creative Thinking

1.1 Demonstrates knowledge of key concepts in cognitive psychology and integrates that knowledge across intra-disciplinary boundaries.

1.2 Can evaluate evidence to form conclusions and make judgments.

Learning Outcome 2: Literacy

2.1 The ability to know when there is a need for information, where to locate it, and the ability to identify the value of different potential resources in the pursuit of scholarly inquiry.

Learning Outcome 3: Global Understanding

3.1 Appreciation of historical development of subject matter within cognitive psychology, and the factors that shaped this development.

Learning Outcome 4: Communication

4.1 The ability to express one's ideas clearly and concisely, and summarize theory and research in cognitive psychology

4.2 The ability to understand sophisticated theoretical and empirical writing in cognitive psychology.

4.3 Can integrate existing knowledge to develop and communicate novel connections between different topic areas within cognitive psychology.

Schedule of Topics

Class	Date	Topic	Activities	Assessments Due
1	Sept 8	Course intro Study strategies	Papers available on CourseLink	
2	Sept 15	Cognition in the brain	Chapter 1, 2	Top Hat practice
3	Sept 22	Visual perception	Chapter 3	Top Hat 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 Bonus quiz 1 (due Friday 26, 11:59pm)
4	Sept 29	Recognizing objects	Chapter 4	Test 1
5	Oct 6	Attention	Chapter 5	Top Hat 5.1, 5.2, 5.3
	Oct 13	<i>Thanksgiving, no class</i>		
6	Oct 20	Language	Chapter 10	Top Hat 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 Bonus quiz 2 (due Friday 24, 11:59pm)
7	Oct 27	Memory 1	Chapter 6	Test 2
8	Nov 3	Memory 2	Chapter 7, 8	Top Hat 8.1, 8.2, 8.3

9	Nov 10	Concepts and categories	Chapter 9	Top Hat 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 Bonus quiz 3 (due Friday 14, 11:59pm)
10	Nov 17	Judgment and reasoning	Chapter 12	Test 3
11	Nov 24	Problem solving	Chapter 13	Top Hat 11.1, 11.2 11.3
12	Friday Nov 28 <i>Make up class for Thanksgiving</i>	Consciousness	Chapter 15	Top Hat 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 Bonus quiz 4 (due Thursday 27, 11:59pm)

Assessments

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Due Date	Location	Weighting	Alternative Weighting
Top Hat	Every class without a test	In class, ROZH 101	10% total 21 questions; best 15 count towards grade	10% 21 questions; best 15 count towards grade
In-class Tests	Sept 29 Oct 27 Nov 17 first half of class	In class, ROZH 101	20% each	25% each Best 2 count towards grade
Bonus Quizzes (optional)	Sept 26 Oct 24 Nov 14 Nov 27 Due by 11:59pm	CourseLink	Bonus 1% each	Bonus 1% each
Final Exam	Dec 6, 8:30am	TBD, see WebAdvisor	30%	40%

Assessment Details

Top Hat

10% of final grade

3 Content questions will be included in every class that doesn't have a test.

Grade for each question will be based on accuracy and participation (60% accuracy, 40% participation). Of the 21 Top Hat questions only the 15 which you performed the best on will contribute towards your final grade. Missed questions due to technical difficulties or other extenuating circumstances will count towards the dropped questions.

In class Tests

20% each

Tests will take up the first hour of the lectures they are scheduled for in our regular lecture hall, ROZH 101. Tests will be a combination of multiple choice and long answer questions which will be filled out by hand. They are non-cumulative, covering all material since the last Test including lecture and textbook content.

Test 1 covers classes 1-3

Test 2 covers classes 4-6

Test 3 covers classes 7-9

Bonus Quizzes

Up to 4% bonus (1% each)

4 bonus quizzes will occur across the semester giving the opportunity to earn extra marks and to get testing practice before Tests and the Final. They will cover content since the previous in class Test and focus on material included in the textbook but not covered in lecture (lecture material may also appear). All quizzes are optional and do not need to be completed to earn full marks in the class.

Quizzes will be hosted on CourseLink and will be open for 2 days.

Quiz 1: opens Wednesday Sept 24, 1:00pm; closes Friday Sept 26, 11:59pm

Quiz 2: opens Wednesday Oct 22, 1:00pm; closes Friday Oct 24, 11:59pm

Quiz 3: opens Wednesday Nov 12, 1:00pm; closes Friday Nov 14, 11:59pm

Quiz 4: opens Tuesday Nov 25, 1:00pm; closes Thursday Nov 27, 11:59pm

Final Exam

30% of final grade

Date: Dec 6

Time: 8:30am – 10:30am

Location: TBD, please see WebAdvisor closer to the scheduled date

Unlike the midterms, the final exam will be cumulative. The exam will include multiple choice and long answer questions.

Alternative Assessment Weighting

The standard weighting of assessments for this course is listed above in the *Weighting* column of the *Assessment Breakdown* table. However, students may choose to change the weightings of the in-class Tests and Final exam to those included in the *Alternative Weighting* column. Under the alternative weighting scheme, the in-class test with the worst performance will be dropped, and the remaining Tests and Final exam will increase in weight. This scheme is intended to accommodate students who have to miss a Test during the semester or who feel their performance did not reflect their abilities.

Please note all students will be graded based on the standard weighting scheme by default. Students must reach out to their assigned Teaching Assistant **prior** to the Final exam to change to the alternative weighting scheme.

Course Grading Policies

Missed Midterms

If you are unable to write a midterm during the scheduled time for a reason out of your control, you must contact your assigned TA within 48 hours of the midterm to schedule a make-up. If you do not schedule a make-up midterm, you will receive 0% on that evaluation.

Marking Turnaround

Myself and the TAs will endeavour to return all grades within 2 weeks of submission. Quiz grades will not be immediately available upon submission and may take up to 2 business days to be published.

Course Policies

Missed classes

If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to make up the missed material. A discussion board is available on CourseLink to facilitate the sharing of lecture notes, and lectures slides are posted to CourseLink. If you have specific questions about a lecture, I am happy to answer them during my office hours.

Academic Integrity

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity **and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct** and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Instructors **shall not** determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct.

Instructors **can** determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the [SAS website](#).

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements. See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations](#).

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes (Nov 28) to drop F25 courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - [Dropping Courses](#).