

# PSYC\* 2650, Course Outline: Winter 2026

## General Information

**Course Title:** Cognitive Psychology

**Course Description:** An introduction to theory, methods, and research findings in the field of cognitive psychology. Topics may include object recognition, attention, memory, language, categorization, judgment and reasoning. Students will be exposed to laboratory demonstrations and experiments.

**Credit Weight:** 0.5

**Academic Department (or campus):** Department of Psychology

**Semester Offering:** Winter 2026

**Class Schedule and Location:** Tues., 7:00-9:50 pm, Rozanski Hall (ROZH) 104

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Chris M. Fiacconi, PhD

Instructor Email: [cfiaccon@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cfiaccon@uoguelph.ca)

Office location and office hours: By appointment only, MacKinnon Extension 3019

## GTA Information

GTA Name: Faryal Khan (for students A:L)

GTA Email: [faryal@uoguelph.ca](mailto:faryal@uoguelph.ca)

GTA Name: Brianna Martey (for students M:Z)

GTA Email: [bmartey@uoguelph.ca](mailto:bmartey@uoguelph.ca)

## Course Content

### **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.

### **Lecture Content:**

Week of:

Jan. 5	Introduction & Optimizing Classroom Learning (material posted on Course Link)
Jan. 12	Cognitive Neuroscience & Methods (Chapter 2)
Jan. 19	Perception (Chapters 3 & 4)
Jan. 26	Attention (Chapter 5)
Feb. 2	Midterm I & Memory I (Chapters 6 & 7)
Feb. 9	Memory II (Chapter 8)
Feb. 16	<b>Reading Week</b>
Feb. 23	Concepts & Categories (Chapter 9)
Mar. 2	Language (Chapter 10)
Mar. 9	Midterm II & Problem Solving & Reasoning (Chapters 12 & 13)
Mar. 16	Consciousness (Chapter 15)
Mar. 23	Application of Cognition to Real-World Problems (material posted on Course Link)
Mar. 30	Course Review

**Labs:** There are no formal labs associated with this course. However, as an educational aid, lectures will contain demonstrations of laboratory experiments to expose students to the tasks and methods commonly used in cognitive psychology research.

**Seminars:** There are no seminars.

### **Course Assignments and Tests:**

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Midterm 1	Tuesday Feb. 3	30	1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 4.2, 4.3
Midterm 2	Tuesday Mar. 10	30	1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 4.2, 4.3
Final Exam	Wednesday April 15, 2026, 2:30 – 4:30 pm	30	1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 4.2, 4.3
Weekly quizzes	Due each Friday. at 11:59 pm	10	1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.2, 4.3

### Additional Notes:

1. Midterm and Final Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Midterm 2 and the Final Exam are cumulative, but emphasis will be placed on more recent material. **There are no make-up midterm exams.** If you are unable to complete the exam at the scheduled time, the weight of the midterm (30%) will be transferred to the following exam. **You must let me (or your TA) know ahead of time** if you need to miss an exam if you want the weight of the missed exam to be transferred. We will make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

2. There are a total of 11 quizzes. You may drop/miss one quiz. The remaining 10 quizzes are worth 1% of your mark each. Weekly quizzes will be completed on-line through Course Link. Students will have 10 minutes to complete 10 multiple-choice questions. Quizzes are not cumulative, and students can use lecture notes, textbooks, etc. to complete each quiz. Each quiz will be available for completion starting each Tuesday at 10:00 pm and must be finished/submitted by Friday evening of the same week at 11:59 pm. **There are no make-up quizzes.**

**Final examination date and time:** Wednesday April 15, 2026, 2:30-4:30 pm.

**Final exam weighting:** 30%

[Examination Regulations](#)

### Course Resources

**Required Texts:** Reisberg, D. (2021). *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.). W.W. Norton & Company.

U Guelph Bookstore Price: TBA  
Amazon Price: \$145.50

**Recommended Texts:** No recommended texts

**Lab Manual:** No lab manual

**Other Resources:** Lecture slides will be made available in .pdf format on Course Link after each class as soon as possible. Reading material for the week of Jan. 5 And Mar. 23 will be posted on Course Link.

**Field Trips:** No field trips

**Additional Costs:** No additional costs

## **Course Policies**

**Grading Policies:** If you are unable to attend one or both midterm exams due to medical, psychological, or compassionate reasons, you must provide formal documentation (i.e., note from physician or counselor) to the course instructor. No other reasons for missing an examination will be accepted (e.g., other exams on the same day, final exam conflicts, travel plans). A make-up exam for each midterm will be scheduled one week after the originally scheduled midterm, and will take place during class time. There are no make-up quizzes (you can drop one of the 11 quizzes without penalty).

**Course Policy on Group Work:** No group work

**Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:**

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Consideration**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

### **Academic Misconduct**

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. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. 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.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

### **Accessibility**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email [csdexams@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csdexams@uoguelph.ca) or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

### **Course Evaluation Information**

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

### **Drop date**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Monday, April 6, 2026. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).  
[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

### **Additional Course Information**

No additional course information.