Course Information

Textbook

Materials on Moodle
The article readings will be posted on Moodle (this can be found at moodle.csun.edu). In order to log onto the system, you must have a valid (active) CSUN e-mail account. You should access the course: PSY 691A-17697-Quilici-Sp12.

About the Course
This course is designed to provide you with a general knowledge of research in the area of human cognition as well as the opportunity to read and discuss specific research articles on different topics in cognitive research. Therefore, during the first half of each class meeting, I will give a lecture on some of the predominant theories and research in human cognition. During the other half of each class meeting, we will read and discuss two specific journal articles that correspond to that week's lecture topic.

Article Discussions
The success of any seminar course depends on the participation of the class members. Therefore attendance and discussion participation will be a significant component of your course grade. It is vital that you keep up with the readings; that is, it is imperative that you read the articles before class. In order to help you achieve this goal, you will be required to write two questions on each of the article readings for that day. These questions must be emailed to me by 11:30 a.m. the day of class. Your questions should reflect philosophical, theoretical, methodological or empirical concerns based on a considered reading of the article in question.

In addition, members of the class will take turns leading discussion for specific articles during the semester. Each presenter will be responsible for leading the class discussion by summarizing his or her chosen article. Each presenter should provide the other class members with a handout summarizing the main points of your chosen article (about a page) as well as a list of some possible discussion questions regarding the article (5-10 is good).

Your final grade will be determined in part by meeting these requirements (see Grading Evaluation).

Term Paper
In order to gain some depth of knowledge in a specific area of cognitive research, you will write a short review paper concerning some topic in cognition that interests you. The paper should focus on one manageable issue or research question, should systematically review the relevant research, and should provide a theoretical integration of the topic based on available research. At the end of the review, please write a short research proposal for a project that is related to the review. Provide a brief introduction, method, and a description of how you would analyze and interpret the results. Although there are no page requirements, a typical term paper will be between 15 and 20 pages in length. A one-paragraph proposal for the paper is due by March 26; the final paper should be typed, double-spaced, and is due on May 11 by 5 p.m.

Exams
There will be two exams (including the final exam): a midterm covering the first half of the course and a final covering the last half of the course. I will provide a set of essay questions to the class prior to each exam, and each exam will consist of a subset of these questions. The midterm will be on March 19 and the final exam will be on May 14 at 3:00 p.m.
Class Meeting Time and Place
The class meets on Mondays from 2:00 to 4:45 p.m. in Sierra Hall, Room 322.

Office Hours
I am available on Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. in Sierra Tower, Room 333 and by appointment. My phone number is (818) 677-7120. You can also leave phone messages for me at (818) 677-2728, which is the Psychology Department phone number. I can also be reached by email; my email address is jill.quilici@csun.edu.

Grading Evaluation
Your grade will be based on the following: first exam (25%), second exam (25%), term paper (25%), and article questions, attendance, discussion leadership and participation (25%).

Summary of Due Dates
- March 19 Midterm Exam
- March 26 Proposal for Term Paper Due
- May 11 Term Paper Due
- May 14 Final Exam

Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>Lecture on Introduction to Approaches to Human Cognition (Textbook: Chapters 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>Lecture on Pattern Recognition and Visual Imagery (Textbook: Chapter 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Lecture on Attention (Textbook: Chapter 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>Lecture on Learning, Memory, &amp; Forgetting (Textbook: Chapter 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Class Activity</td>
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| 2/20  | Lecture on Long Term Memory Systems  
(Textbook: Chapter 7)  
Article Discussion (Moodle):  
| 2/27  | Lecture on Long Term Memory Systems (Chapter 7 continued)  
Article Discussion (Moodle):  
| 3/5   | Lecture on Everyday Memory (Textbook: Chapter 8)  
Article Discussion (Moodle):  
| 3/12  | Lecture on Everyday Memory continued (Textbook: Chapter 8)  
Article Discussion (Moodle):  
| 3/17  | Midterm Exam |
| 3/26  | Lecture on Problem Solving (Textbook: Chapter 12)  
Article Discussion (Moodle):  
| 4/2   | Spring Break, no class |
| 4/5   | Term Paper Proposal Due |
Date | Class Activity
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4/9 | Lecture on Transfer and Expertise (Textbook: Chapter 12)
| Article Discussion (Moodle):

4/16 | Lecture on Judgment (Textbook: Chapter 13)
| Article Discussion (Moodle):

4/22 | Lecture on Decision Making (Textbook: Chapter 13)
| Article Discussion (Moodle):

4/30 | Lecture on Reasoning (Textbook: Chapter 14)
| Article Discussion (Moodle):

5/6 | Lecture on Cognition and Emotion (Textbook: Chapter 15)
| Article Discussion (Moodle):

5/11, 5 p.m. | Term Paper Due

5/14, 3 p.m. | Final Exam