

# Cognitive Psychology

PSY 3120

Spring 2013

Dr. Patrick Stark (you can call me Patrick)

Lecture meets M,W,F, 2:00-2:50 McDonald 207

Office: McDonald 211

Phone: 879-4634

Office hours: M,T,W, Th 11:00 or by appointment

Email: pstark@dixie.edu

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## Required Texts

**Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind** 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Daniel Reisberg, Norton Publishing

## Social Science Course Objectives

As an outcome of taking courses in the Social Science program, students shall:

1. Demonstrate the ability to examine human behaviors in a structured and organized way as a means of understanding the human condition. Measured by examination and/or oral and written reports.
2. Demonstrate the ability to recognize the ideas, people and events that are generally thought to be important by social scientists. Measured by examination and/or oral or written reports.
3. Develop a perceptual frame of reference based on social scientific knowledge measured by the presence of an attitudinal frame of reference which would be expressed in written or oral activities.
4. Exhibit concepts of critical thinking and scientific methodology in examining human behavior as measured by the presence of an attitudinal frame of reference which would be displayed in written or oral activities.

## General Outline of the Course

### Course Summary

Introduction to the basic principles of human cognition (thinking). Topics include sensation and perception, categorization, attention, memory, knowledge representation, judgment and decision making, and problem solving.

### Student Responsibilities

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is strongly recommended and more or less expected. This can be a pretty tough course and skipping class is not going to make it any easier. Besides, if you skip class you can't participate and participating is half the fun of the course.

**Reading the Textbook and Assigned Readings, and Listening to the Podcasts:**

Throughout the semester I will be assigning sections of the text or making other reading materials available to you. I'll also be assigning podcasts to listen to. It is expected that you will keep up on these assignments since not doing so will

greatly diminish your enjoyment of the course and most likely will adversely affect your final grade.

**Office Hours:** I encourage you to come and see me during office hours if you have any questions at all about the material. I'm also available if you have any questions about or want to discuss psychology, neuroscience, the meaning of life, how to get into graduate school or anything else of an academic nature, or climbing. I'm always available to talk about climbing.

### **Examinations (70% of final grade)**

There will be **four** examinations during the semester; three mid-terms and a final. The three midterm examinations will be offered during a 48 hour period at the testing center. See the schedule for approximate exam dates (I'll let you know in advance if there will be a change in an exam date). There will be no class on the day the 48 hour time period begins so that you can take the exam when the class regularly meets. The final will be taken in McDonald 207 on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. The lowest of the four examinations will count less toward your final grade. Specifically, your three highest exam scores will each contribute 20% toward your final grade, and your lowest midterm score will contribute 10% toward your final grade.

### **Movie Time and Podcasts (30% of final grade)**

Cognitive psychology is pretty cool stuff and a many of the findings from cog psych research can be found in pop culture such as movies and podcasts. There is also a lot of disinformation in pop culture regarding cog psych topics. During the semester I will provide you with a list of videos, movies and podcasts that contain topics that we are covering in class. I will also provide a series of questions or a similar written assignment for each. Your job is to pick three of the videos, movies or podcasts to view or listen to and complete the associated assignment. The videos, podcasts, and movies are divided into two groups; large and small. You must pick at least one large video, podcast, or movie to watch or listen to during the semester. You can choose to do two (or even three) large assignments and you will receive extra credit for doing so.

I encourage you to watch the movies and videos or listen to the podcasts as a group and to discuss the assignments as a group. The assignment that you turn in, however, has to be written by you and only you. It may contain ideas that your group discussed, but those ideas must be presented in your words. Please see me if you have any questions about this expectation.

**WARNING:** some of the movies listed may contain material that some may find offensive (e.g. foul language, violence). Please see me if you have any questions regarding movie selection. The podcasts are all taken from programs aired on National Public Radio and, as such, should be suitable for all listeners. The videos are on YouTube and TED and should be acceptable as well. When in doubt, discuss the selections with me first.

### **Missed Exam Policy**

Please don't miss an exam. You may take an exam early (before the scheduled exam time period begins), just let me know when you will be leaving and we can schedule a time to take the exam in my office. I will allow a make-up exam after the

scheduled exam dates only if you were prevented from taking the exam due one or more of the following: coma, documented stay in hospital, documented temporary burial in an avalanche, documented debilitating disease, documented death in the family, or any other institutionally approved excuse. Otherwise, plan on being here for the exam period.

### **Academic Dishonesty and Conduct Statement**

As stated in the DSC Student Handbook; “Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated at Dixie State College (Academic Discipline Policy, 3.34)” including cheating, and plagiarism. These acts of academic dishonesty are strictly prohibited. The instructor has the right to all means of academic discipline outlined in the Academic Discipline Policy: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

### **Accommodations**

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone (435) 652-7516.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

**Note:** This schedule is very tentative and designed only to give you a rough idea of where we will be throughout the semester. In the event that an exam date arrives and the class has not covered all of the scheduled material, don’t panic. Either, the exam will only be over that material which we have covered since the last exam or we will move the exam date back.

<b>Date</b>		<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Jan	7	Introduction	1
	9	History of Cognitive Psychology	
	11	The Visual System	
	14		
	16	Color Vision	
	18		
	21	<b>No Class</b>	
	23	Visual Perception	11
	25		
	28		
	30	<b>Exam I</b>	
Feb	1	Memory	5
	4		
	6		
	8	Encoding and retrieval	6
	11		
	13		
	15	Long term memory	7

	18	<b>No Class</b>	
	20		
	22		
	25	<b>Exam II</b>	
	27		
March	4	LTM networks	8
	6		
	8	Generic Knowledge	9
	11	<b>No Class</b>	
	13	<b>No Class</b>	
	15	<b>No Class</b>	
	18		
	20		
	22	Language	10
	25		
	27		
	29	<b>Exam III</b>	
April	1	Heuristics	12
	3		
	5		
	8	Reasoning and logic	13
	10		
	12		
	15		
	17	Problem Solving	14
	19		
	22		
	24	Review	