



COGS 101B: Learning, Memory, and Attention

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-1:50PM, SSRB 203 and by appointment

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12-1PM, CSB 127

Lectures M/T/W/Th 2-3:20PM, CENTR 207

Sections Tuesdays (Lab Section, mandatory weeks 1,2,3,5) 1-1:50PM, CENTR 207
Thursdays (Discussion Section, optional) 1-1:50PM, CENTR 207

Course Description How is it that we so often seem to seamlessly make sense of the world? How is knowledge stored and represented in the human mind/brain? What is the most effective way to learn new information? This class will touch on these and many more questions and will provide a survey of research on learning, memory, and attention: core topics in the field of Cognitive Science. We will cover topics ranging from theories of how we learn and pay attention to complex problem solving and creativity. Empirical findings on these topics will be discussed in detail and students will learn to interpret these findings in order to think critically about current theories of learning, memory, and attention.

Learning Objectives By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the major established theories of learning, memory, and attention
- Summarize and discuss classic and current empirical findings in the areas of learning, memory and attention
- Think critically about current theories, open questions, and debates in the field
- Develop a better understanding of how people think and reason and understand what factors influence these processes
- Discuss how principles of human cognition can be applied to the “real-world”

Course Format This will be a lecture-based course, but will include discussion sections. There will be four experiment assignments throughout the course, and these will be conducted during the Tuesday sections. Thursday sections will be used for discussion and review of material.

Course Schedule and Readings The course schedule and required readings will be posted on the course website: <https://thiscourse.com/ucsd/cogs101b/su15/>



Course Requirements

ASSIGNMENT	PERCENTAGE
Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
Experiment Assignments (3 total, worth 5% each)	15%
Final Exam	35%
Extra credit: SONA participation (or article summaries)	up to 2%

Grading Scale

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F Below 60%

Course Policies

- **Late assignments:** All assignments must be turned in *before* the beginning of class. Any assignment turned in after the start of class will be considered one day late. All assignments are docked 10% for each day they are late.
- **Academic Integrity:** You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with UCSD's Academic Integrity policy. Plagiarism is considered a serious offense and I take it very seriously. **Seriously, don't do it.** Educate yourself about common myths here: <https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/plagiarism.html>
- **Citations using APA Style:** For your writing assignments, all references that you use **MUST** be cited. Failing to cite an article is considered plagiarism! For this course, we will use **APA style** when citing references. See the link below for more information: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
If you are unsure about how to write your references in APA style, please talk to the TA (Dan) or me.
- **Extra credit:** You may receive up to 2% of extra credit by participating in SONA Experiments. You will receive one point of extra credit per hour of participation. Students who do not wish to participate in these experiments may chose to write brief summaries (~2 pages) of articles that I have selected. Please let me know if you chose to complete this option and I will send you the articles. All extra credit (including articles) must be completed by **July 30th, 2015**.
- **Special Accommodations:** If you are in need of special accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do we need a textbook for this course?** Yes, the required textbook for this course is *Cognitive Psychology, 4th Edition* by Medin, Ross, and Markman. Older editions of the textbook are perfectly fine. All assigned readings are considered testable material.
2. **What do I need to bring to the experiment lab sections?** Please bring your laptop computer to any sections that are labeled as experiment lab sections. If you do not



have a laptop, please still come to section and complete the lab activity with a partner.

3. **Will the lecture slides be posted?** Yes, all lecture slides will be posted on the course website by the end of the day of the lecture.
4. **Do I have to come to section?** Attendance will not be taken during section. Tuesday sections will often include the experiment lab assignments and are mandatory. Thursday sections are discussion sections and are optional.

This course is largely based on previous versions taught by Steve Barrera and Sarah Creel. A big thanks to them for their guidance!