

Psychology 808: Cognitive Core Course  
Fall 2006

Dr. Nora Newcombe  
565 Weiss Hall  
1-6944 (voice)  
1-8100 (fax)  
[newcombe@temple.edu](mailto:newcombe@temple.edu)

Wednesday 1:30-4:30  
642 Weiss Hall  
Office Hours: Wednesday  
10:30-1:30  
or email at any time

Aims of the Course

1. To provide a graduate-level survey of knowledge and issues in cognitive psychology.
2. To develop critical thinking about theory and methods in cognitive psychology.
3. To stimulate appreciation of the relevance of cognitive psychology to applied and clinical problems.

Background for the Course

1. I assume that you have had an undergraduate course in cognitive psychology. If you have not, you should talk to me about obtaining an undergraduate text to read in parallel.
2. I also assume a reasonably broad knowledge of the field of psychology as a whole, including especially research design and basic statistics. If this might pose a problem for you, please talk to me.

Course Requirements

1. Written final exam at 1:30 on **December 13**. Questions will be selected from a list of possible questions to be circulated a week before the exam. Weight is 40%.
2. A short paper (about 1500 words) summarizing and critically analyzing a recent empirical article concerning basic research in cognitive psychology. By "recent", I mean published in 2000 or later. Articles should come from a journal in the *JEP* family, *Memory and Cognition*, *Journal of Memory and Language*, *Memory*, *Cognitive Psychology*, or *Cognitive Science*. (If you are interested in an article from another journal, please talk to me first.) Due **Oct. 4**. Weight is 25%.
3. Another short paper summarizing and analyzing a recent empirical or review article concerning cognitive aspects of an applied or clinical problem. Articles can come from any of the journals already mentioned, or *Applied Cognitive Psychology* or *JEP: Applied*, but they may also appear in more clinically- or developmentally- or socially-oriented journals, as long as cognitive issues are central to the theory, methods or recommendations. Due **Nov. 1**. Weight is 25%.
4. Attendance and participation: Please let me know if you cannot attend class. Participation in class will determine 10% of the final grade.

Disability

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability resources and Services (215-204-1280, 100 Ritter Annex) to inquire about reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### Statement on Academic Freedom

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: [http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy\\_no=03.70.02](http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02).

### Books To Purchase

Eysenck, M.W. & Keane, M.T. (2005). *Cognitive Psychology: A Student's Handbook*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Hove and New York: Psychology Press.

Ward, J. (2006). *The Student's Guide to Cognitive Neuroscience*. Hove and New York: Psychology Press.

### Class Schedule

August 30	Syllabus Distribution
September 6	Cognitive Psychology: Overview and Methods Read EK, Ch. 1; Ward, Ch. 1., skim Ch. 2, then read Ch. 3, 4 and 5
September 13	Perception EK, Ch. 2, 3, 4; Ward, Ch. 6, 8
September 20	No Class
September 27	Attention and cognitive control EK, Ch. 5; Ward, Ch. 13
October 4	Imagery and spatial functioning Ward, Ch. 7 <b>Report 1 Due</b>
October 11	Memory I EK, Ch. 6, 7, 8; Ward, Ch. 9
October 18	Memory II
October 25	Concepts and categories EK, Ch. 9
November 1	Language I EK, Ch. 10, 11, 12; Ward, Ch. 10, 11 <b>Report 2 Due</b>
November 8	Language II
November 15	Numeracy Ward, Ch. 12

November 22	Reasoning, Problem Solving and Creativity EK, Ch. 13, 14, 16
November 29	Judgment and Decision Making; The Problem of Consciousness EK, Ch. 15, and Part V
December 6	Social and Emotional Thinking Ward, Ch. 14 Final Exam Handout and Class Evaluation
December 13	Final Exam