THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIECNES
Department of Psychology

COURSE OUTLINE (2023/2024, SEMESTER ONE)

1. Basic Course Information

Course Code	PSYC7304
Course Title	Cognitive Psychology
Course Credits	6
Lecture Time & Venue	3:30 – 6:20 pm Wednesdays CPD LG.59, Centennial Campus

2. Teaching team

Name	Office	Phone	E-mail
Instructor			
Dr. Sing-Hang Cheung Office hrs: Wed 10:00 – 11:00 am	6.24, JCT	3917 4225	singhang@hku.hk
Course co-ordinator			
Mr. Justin Au Office hrs: by appointment http://justyno.setmore.com	6.19, JCT	3917 8231	justyno@hku.hk

3. Course Description

This course covers how humans learn to deal with information from the environment in everyday life. Topics include various aspects of perception, attention, memory, and language. Students will be involved in conducting experiments on cognitive functioning as part of the coursework.

4. Course Learning Outcomes

On completing the course, students will be able to:
a. discuss major concepts and theories of human cognition
b. read primary research literature in cognitive psychology in an effective manner
c. critically evaluate existing theories and empirical findings in cognitive psychology
d. present synthesized ideas or empirical findings in the area of cognitive psychology

5. Experiential Learning Activities

Class meetings will consist of lectures, discussions, and experiential activities. You will learn different topics in the field of cognitive psychology through group discussions, individual exploration, and compilation of results from the learning activities. You will form groups of four members for two group presentations.

On **October 4** (Week 6), your group will present what you have learned from a review article. **The objective of this activity is for you to have in-depth learning about one of the research topics in cognitive psychology.** A list of review articles will be provided. Your group will help the whole class to learn from one of the articles on the list. Each presentation will be 12 minutes long. **This presentation will contribute to 10% of the final grade.**

Near the end of the semester (**November 15 and 22**), your group will do a second presentation. Your group will present what you have learned from a recently published research article. **The objective of this activity is for you to learn from primary research findings in cognitive psychology.** Your group will identify an article published on or after January 1, 2018 in one of the suggested scientific journals. Each group will need to submit the topic selection by **October 25**. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long. **This presentation will contribute to 15% of the final grade.**

6. Readings & Online Materials

- Eysenck, M. W., & Keane, M. T. (2020). *Cognitive psychology: A student's handbook* (8th ed.). Psychology Press.
- [Reference] Andrade, M., & Walker, N. (n.d.). Cognitive Psychology. https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Psychology/Cognitive_Psychology_(Andrade_and_Walker)
- You should be able to access the Moodle site for this course through your HKU portal once you have successfully enrolled in the course. If you have any problem accessing Moodle, please contact the tutor immediately, because updated information about the course (e.g., lecture slides) will be posted there.

7. Assessment Methods and Weighting

Assessment methods	Weighting in final course grade (%)
1. Presentations	25%
2. Participation in online tasks	10%
3. Lab report (draft: 10%; final: 25%)	35%
4. Quizzes	30%
Total	100%

Final grade cutoffs:

A = ≥80%.   B = 70%~79%   C = 60%~69%   D = 50%~59%   F = <50%

Online tasks. You will participate in **three online tasks**. These online tasks were chosen for you to experience some of the experiments we will learn about. Data collected from some of these tasks will also be used in the Lab Report assignment. Please complete the online tasks by the specified deadlines. Each of the tasks will take 10 to 20 minutes to complete. **Your completion of these online tasks will contribute to 10% of the final grade.**

Lab report. You will be introduced to some classic findings in cognitive psychology in this semester. We will attempt to replicate one of these classic findings in the lab assignment. **The objective of this learning activity is for you to learn from the hands-on experience of an experiment in cognitive psychology.** You will be introduced to the details of this assignment in the class.

There will be two written submissions for this assignment. First, you will submit a draft of the lab report by **November 8, 2023 (3:00pm)** (10% of the final grade). The final report should NOT be longer than 2,500 words, with a Methods section no longer than 800 words, and will be due on **December 15, 2023 (5:00pm)** (25% of the final grade). Materials written beyond the word limit will not be graded.

Quizzes. There will be **TWO** 1-hour in-class quizzes (**October 25 and November 29**). In each quiz, you will need to answer **TWO long-answer questions**. The quizzes will cover materials discussed BOTH during lectures and in the assigned readings. **The objective of these quizzes is NOT to test your memory, but to test your understanding and integration of the different topics in cognitive psychology.** Performance in the two quizzes will contribute to the final grade with UNEVEN weights. For each student, the lower score of the two quizzes will be assigned 2/3 weight relative to the other quiz. Therefore, the higher-scoring quiz will contribute to 18% of the final grade, and the lower-scoring quiz will contribute to 12% of the final grade.

You MUST NOT share or discuss the quiz materials outside this class.

No make-up quizzes will be allowed. In case of a student missing a quiz due to medical reason (with a valid medical proof), his/her performance in the missed quiz will be predicted based on his/her performance in the other components of the course at the end of the semester. If you feel unwell on a quiz day, and if the situation allows, please email the teaching team about your anticipated absence on the quiz day **before** the scheduled quiz time.

8. Feedback Policy

Students can expect **general feedbacks** and grades on submitted assignments and quizzes within **two to three weeks**. Students can receive individual feedbacks, including those on the final quiz, through scheduling a meeting with the course instructor or tutor.

9. Course Schedule

Week	Month	Day	Topic
2	Sep.	6	Cognitive psychology: Then and now
3		13	Methods in cognitive psychology
4		20	Visual perception
5		27	Attention
6	Oct.	4	Presentations
7		11	Memory I
8		18	No class – Reading week
9		25	Quiz 1 + Memory II
10	Nov.	1	Memory III
11		8	Language + Decision making
12		15	Presentations
13		22	Presentations
14		29	Quiz 2 + Wrap up

10. Important Notes

Late assignment. Please finish and submit your assignments by the corresponding deadlines. Late assignments will be penalized by a 5% deduction for each day being late. For example, if you submit an assignment, which has a maximum mark of 10, within the first 24 hours after the original deadline, 0.5 mark (i.e., 5% of 10) will be deducted.

Academic honesty. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, interfering with grading, etc.) will receive a grade of F in this course and will be reported to the Department / Faculty Office / University Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. The Department of Psychology has formulated departmental policies and guidelines on student misconduct. You can visit the following webpage for more information:
https://psychology.hku.hk/useful-information-to-current-students/

Plagiarism. A softcopy is required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties may also be applied. These penalties may include a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to the Department / Faculty Office / University Disciplinary Committee for consideration of possible disciplinary action. If you are not sure what constitutes the academic offense of plagiarism, checkout the webpage at http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism. Please note that if you reuse any material previously submitted for another course without proper acknowledgement, that also constitutes plagiarism, although you are the author of the original work. This is called self-plagiarism.