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

COURSE OUTLINE (2020/2021, SEMESTER ONE)

1. **Basic Course Information**

Course Code	PSYC7304
Course Title	Cognitive Psychology
Course Credits	6
Lecture Time & Venue	Mondays 3:30 – 6:20 pm (Online via Zoom)

2. **Course Instructor / Course Co-ordinator**

Name	Office	Phone	E-mail	Office Hours
Dr. Sing-Hang Cheung (Instructor)	6.24, JCT	3917 4225	singhang@hku.hk	Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 am
Mr. Justin Au (Tutor)	6.19, JCT	3917 8231	justyno@hku.hk	By appointment

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 approximately five members for two group presentations.

On Week 6 (October 5), 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 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 5% of the final grade.

During Week 12 (November 16) or Week 13 (November 23), your group will present a research article. The objective of this activity is for you to learn from the most up-to-date research findings in cognitive psychology. Your group will identify an article published on or after January 1, 2017 in one of the suggested scientific journals. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long. This presentation will contribute to 15% of the final grade.

6. Assessment Methods and Weighting

Assessment methods	Weighting in final course grade (%)
1. Presentations	20%
2. Assignments	15%
3. Lab Report	35%
4. Quizzes	30%
Total	**100%**

Final grade cutoffs:

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

Assignments. There will be five to seven writing assignments throughout the semester. These assignments are designed to engage you in some in-depth reflections on what we will be learning in this course. Each submission should be no longer than 150 words. Materials written beyond the word limit will not be graded. Your three top scoring submissions will each contribute to 5% of the final grade.

Lab report. You will be introduced to the concept of working memory towards the beginning of the semester. For the lab assignment, we will explore the relationship between working memory and some other psychological constructs. The objective of this learning activity is for you to learn from the hands-on experience of an experiment in cognitive psychology. The teaching team will set up an online experiment. Each of you will participate in this experiment. You will also invite at least one other person to participate. You will be introduced to the details of this experiment in the class.

There will be two written submissions for this assignment. First, you will draft and submit the Introduction section (no longer than 1,000 words) of the lab report by November 2, 2020 (3:00pm) (10% of the final grade). The final report should be no longer than 2,500 words, with a Methods section no longer than 800 words, and will be due on December 7, 2020 (3:00pm) (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 19 and November 30). In each quiz, you will answer a combination of long-answer and short-answer questions. The quizzes will cover materials discussed both during lectures and in the required textbook. 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 between the two quizzes will be assigned 2/3 weight compared 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. The quiz materials MUST NOT be shared and discussed 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.

7. Course Schedule

Week	MM	DD	Topics		Readings
2.	09	07	Introduction Cognitive Neuroscience		G. – Ch. 1 & 2
3.		14	Perception		G. – Ch. 3
4.		21	Attention		G. – Ch. 4
5.		28	Working Memory		G. – Ch. 5
6.	10	05	Presentations		--
7.		12	No Class – Reading Week		--
8.		19	Long-Term Memory	Quiz 1	G. – Ch. 6–8
9.		26	No Class – The day following Chung Yeung Festival	Finish online experiment	--
10.	11	02	Language	Lab report draft due	G. – Ch. 11
11.		09	Decision Making		G. – Ch. 13
12.		16	Presentations		--
13.		23	Presentations		--
14.		30	Wrap-up	Quiz 2 Lab report due on Dec. 7	--

8. Required/Recommended Readings & Online Materials

- Goldstein, E. B. (2019). *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research and Everyday Experience (5th Edition)*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.
- 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.

9. 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.

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.