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

COURSE OUTLINE (2024/2025, SEMESTER TWO)

1. Basic Course Information

Course Code	PSYC7304
Course Title	Cognitive Psychology
Course Credits	6
Lecture Time & Venue	3:30 – 6:20 pm Wednesdays CPD 1.21, Centennial Campus

2. Teaching team

Name	Office	Phone	E-mail
Instructor			
Dr. Sing-Hang Cheung Office hrs: Tue 3:30 – 4:30 pm	6.24, JCT	3917 4225	singhang@hku.hk
Tutor			
Mr. Justin Au Office hrs: by appointment https://bit.ly/bookjustyno	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. 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.

6. Assessment Methods and Weighting

Assessment methods	Weighting in final course grade (%)
1. Participation in online experiments	10%
2. Writing exercise	12%
3. Group presentation	25%
4. Lab report (draft: 12%; final: 25%)	37%
5. Short quizzes	16%
Total	100%

Final grade cutoffs:

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

Online experiments. You will participate in two online experiments. Data collected from these lab experiments will be analyzed and reported in your Final Lab Report. Please complete the lab experiments by the specified deadline. Each of the experiments will take 10 to 20 minutes to complete. Your completion of these online tasks will contribute to 10% of the final grade.

Writing exercise. You are required to read the original articles reporting findings from experiments on which the two online experiments are based. You will need to submit your answers to the questions about these two articles. This writing exercise will be due on **February 7, 2025** (noon) and will contribute to 12% of the final grade.

Group presentation. You will have in-depth exploration on a topic of your choice in the field of cognitive psychology through doing a group presentation. Each group will consist of four members and will do a presentation near the end of the semester (**either April 2 or 9**). 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, 2019 in one of the following peer-reviewed international journals:

Nature Human Behaviour	Memory & Cognition
Journal of Experimental Psychology – General	Journal of Experimental Psychology – Learning, Memory and Cognition
Psychonomic Bulletin & Review	Memory
Cognitive Psychology	Consciousness and Cognition
Journal of Memory and Language	Cognition
Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition	Journal of Experimental Psychology – Human Perception and Performance
Applied Cognitive Psychology	

Each group will need to submit the topic selection by **March 19**. *In addition to presenting the published paper, each group will need to present a proposed follow-up study.* Each presentation will be 25 minutes long. This presentation will contribute to 25% of the final grade.

Lab report. We will attempt to replicate two well-known cognitive psychology experiments in this lab assignment. The objective of this learning activity is for you to experience the process of conducting an experiment in cognitive psychology. You will be introduced to the details of this assignment in the class/tutorials.

There will be two writing assignments for the lab report. First, you will submit a draft of the lab report by **March 5, 2025** (noon) (12% 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 **April 23, 2025** (noon) (25% of the final grade). Materials written beyond the word limit will not be graded.

<u>Quizzes.</u> There will be EIGHT short in-class quizzes, with TWO multiple-choice questions on each quiz. These quizzes will count towards 16% of the final grade.

No make-up quizzes will be allowed. In case of a student missing a quiz due to medical reasons (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. <u>Feedback Policy</u>

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.

8. <u>Course Schedule</u>

Week	Month	Day	Topic	Due date
1	Jan.	22	Cognitive psychology: Then and now	
–		29	No class – Lunar New Year	
2	Feb.	5*	Methods in cognitive psychology	Quiz 1
3		12	Visual perception	Quiz 2
4		19	Attention	Quiz 3
5		26	Memory I	Quiz 4
6	Mar.	5	Memory II	Quiz 5 || Draft report
7		12	No class – Reading week	
8		19	Imagery	Quiz 6 || Presentation topic
9		26	Language + Decision making	Quiz 7
10	Apr.	2	Presentations	
11		9	Presentations	Quiz 8
12		16	Selected topics in cognitive psychology	
13		23	Selected topics in cognitive psychology	Final report
14		30	Selected topics in cognitive psychology	

* The writing assignment will be due on February 7, 2025, Friday (noon).

9. Important Notes

<u>Late assignment.</u> 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.

<u>Academic honesty.</u> 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/

<u>Plagiarism.</u> 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.