

PSY305 Cognitive Psychology: Exploring the Mind

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JAN

Synopsis:

Cognitive psychology is the study of mental processes. It is about how we pay attention to information around us and perceive the world, how we mentally represent concepts, how we remember and forget things, and how we understand and use language to communicate our thoughts. Mental processes are, however, intangible and difficult to measure directly so cognitive psychologists have developed experimental methods to study these mental processes indirectly by measuring response latency and response accuracy.

This course provides a basic introduction to several important areas in cognitive psychology. There is a strong emphasis on linking cognitive theories and findings to everyday life. For example, consider how you have no trouble singing a song you learned when you were a child yet you can't remember the name of the person you were introduced to 5 minutes ago? What about the fact that you don't have any problems reading this even though the words are jumbled up?

There will be opportunities to gain first-hand experience in experimental psychology using cognitive test kits and web-based demonstrations of classic experiments using Coglab (online cognition lab <https://coglab.cengage.com/>). The course also provides opportunities to collect data through experiments, interpret the statistical test results, and write up formal experimental reports. These different methods of empirical scientific research help us to better understand important concepts in cognitive psychology and uncover the myths of the human mind.

Topics:

- Introduction to Cognitive Psychology / Experimental Psychology
- Perception
- Perceptual Organisation
- Perceptual Errors
- Selective Attention
- Divided Attention
- Inattention
- Memory Structure and Processes
- Everyday Memory and Memory Errors
- Knowledge Representation
- Language Understanding
- Experiments and Report Writing

Textbooks:

Goldstein, E. B: Cognitive psychology (eText) (5th Edition.).(2019) Cengage Learning.
ISBN-13: 9789814844987

Learning Outcome:

- Examine major theories, principles, and concepts in cognitive psychology.
- Discuss relevant theories and research findings to explain real-life behaviour and cognitions.
- Appraise cognitive theories and how hypotheses are verified through empirical testing.
- Illustrate how cognitive psychology provides evidence of the link between cognitive functions of the mind and behaviour.
- Apply cognitive theories and findings to everyday mental-life and behaviour.
- Prepare an experimental report based on a pre-programmed experiment and the interpretation of experimental results.

Assessment Strategies - Regular Semester (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 2	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 3	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 4	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 5	2
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	20
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	20
Overall Examinable Components	ECA	50
Total		100

*The information listed is subject to review and change.