

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Course Number: PSY- 225 Class/Lect. Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 Credits: 3 Dept.: Psychology

Course Title: Cognitive Psychology Semester: Fall Year: 2015

Course Description, Prerequisite, Corequisite:

How do we remember our experiences, learn new information, make decisions, solve problems, and perceive the world around us? What are attention, emotion, and creativity? And what happens when these cognitive processes break down? Cognitive Psychology explores these processes of thought and mind and how we research them. Students will learn theories, methods, and concepts of cognitive psychology and apply them to everyday life including their own learning.

PRE-REQ: PSY-101

CO-REQ: none

Course Objectives/Competencies

When students complete this course, they will be able to:

1. Identify, explain, and apply the major theories, empirical findings, and concepts in cognitive psychology.
2. Weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, and understand the ethical behavior that underlies the discipline of cognitive psychology.
3. Understand and use research and data to support or refute cognitive psychological hypotheses and concepts (*critical thinking*)
4. Identify strengths and limitations in cognitive psychology research (*critical thinking, information literacy*)
5. Write and speak about cognitive psychological theories and concepts and how we experience them in everyday life (*written and oral communication*)
6. Interpret data to and from tables and graphs to understand empirical findings from the cognitive psychology literature (*quantitative reasoning*)
7. Discover and identify appropriate cognitive psychology research studies using library databases (*computer literacy*)

cognitive therapy, Learning + memory



COURSE TOPICS

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology & Cognitive Neuroscience

Scope of Cognitive Psychology

Core Concepts

The Brain & Cognitive Neuroscience

Research Methods

External Perceptual & Internal Reflective Cognitive Processes

Visual Processing & Object Recognition

Imagination & Emotion

Attention & Awareness

Filter and Capacity Theories of Attention

Automaticity

Subjective Experience of Awareness

Memory Systems

Memory Dichotomy Models (e.g., Long-term/Short-term, Episodic /Semantic, Procedural/Declarative)

Memory Processing Models (working memory, multiple-component models)

Remembering Events & Metamemory

Encoding, Maintenance, Retrieval, Transfer

Autobiographical Memory

Metacognition: Learning about learning, remembering about memories

Memory Distortions & Disruptions

Source Monitoring, Reality Monitoring

Eyewitness Testimony & "Flashbulb" memories

Aging, Amnesia, and Dementias

Language

Neurological processing of language

Meaning, Structure, Use of Language

Cognitive Representation & Comprehension of Language

Decision Making

Choice

Heuristics for Decision Making

Emotion in Decision Making

Problem Solving

Problem Solving

Creativity



Quiz

(/academy/practice/quiz

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worksheet

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cognitive

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psychology

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Lesson

theories.html)

Course

Definition of Cognitive Psychology

Cognitive psychology *is the branch of psychology that focuses on the way people process information.* It looks at how we process information we receive, and how the treatment of this information leads to our responses. In other words, cognitive psychology is interested in what is happening within our minds that links stimulus (input) and response (output).

Cognitive psychologists study internal processes that include perception, attention, language, memory, and thinking. They ask questions like: How do we receive information about the outside world? How do we store and process information? How do we solve problems? How does a breakdown in our perceptions cause errors in our thinking? How do errors in our thinking lead to emotional distress and negative behaviors?