

Cognitive Psychology  
2011-2012 Term A  
Professor Ryan Shaun Joazeiro de Baker  
Teaching Assistant Juelaila J. Raziuddin  
**MODIFIED SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**

Syllabus adapted in part from past syllabus by Janice Gobert

Text: *Cognitive Psychology and its Implications* (7<sup>th</sup> edition) by John R. Anderson  
Text: *CogLab Online* <http://coglab.wadsworth.com/>

Grading:

40% -- 2 tests—Test 1: 20%; Test 2: 20%  
15% -- CogLabs  
15% -- Quizzes  
20% -- Final paper  
10% -- Class Participation

**NO RESEARCH CREDITS ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE FULL (100%) CREDIT FOR THIS CLASS. RESEARCH CREDITS WILL NOT COUNT FOR EXTRA CREDIT.**

Office hours:

BAKER  
Friday 3:30pm-5pm or by appointment, SL317A  
Phone: 508-831-5355  
E-mail: [rsbaker@wpi.edu](mailto:rsbaker@wpi.edu)

RAZIUDDIN  
Wednesday 12:30pm-2pm or by appointment, SL112  
Phone: 508-831-4182  
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Course web site. <http://users.wpi.edu/~rsbaker/CogPsy2011A/>

Goals for the course.

- Develop a basic understanding of human cognitive processes, both in general and in terms of oneself
- Understand the research base that produces scientific knowledge of human cognitive processes
- Be able to relate cognitive psychology phenomena to problems in many fields (including design, engineering, biology, education, etc.) as well as in daily life
- Develop experience in interpreting and communicating scientific findings in cognitive psychology

*Notes on the readings.* Students are to come to class having read the required chapter. Power point notes will be made available on the course website. Class lectures will cover important

concepts, both within and in addition to, the text. Exams will contain items from the text as well as from in class.

*CogLab*: To access CogLab you will need a registration (access) code. It is possible to buy the Anderson text with a CogLab code. Alternatively, you can purchase an access code online by going to <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/en/US/storefront/US?cmd=catProductDetail&ISBN=978-0-495-50296-8>.

Information on logging into the CogLab can be found at <http://coglab.wadsworth.com/>  
<http://coglab.wadsworth.com/support/help.html>

Group ID: wpi-2011-a  
Student password: herbsimon

*Final paper*. For the final paper, you will need to choose a recent paper (published 2006-2011) from *Cognitive Science*, *Cognitive Development*, *Cognition and Instruction*, or *Cognitive Psychology*, pertaining to cognitive psychology. You will need to send me the paper (or a link to it) for approval. You can complete this assignment individually or in groups of up to three. You will read this article, and will A) summarize the findings of the article, and B) write a description of how the article's findings should influence practice in another field of your choice (you will need to detail the field in advance). More detail will be given in class.

*Exams*. There are two exams, the material covered is not cumulative across the two tests. The format for the exams is: High-level questions that test both your factual knowledge and your ability to apply that knowledge to reason about and suggest plausible solutions to real-world problems

*Quizzes*. Four quizzes will be given during the term. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of a class. The format for the quizzes is: concept/name matching; short-answer, and multiple choice. Quizzes will be based solely on that day's readings. Quizzes will *not* be announced in advance. Credit for a missed quiz is not possible; however, if class is missed for a suitable reason, that quiz will be removed from the final grade calculation. (e.g. no penalty). The lowest quiz grade for any specific student will be dropped.

*Missed classes/Late assignments*. Rescheduling exams and late assignments require a suitable reason (e.g. illness, death in the family, or other reason confirmed by a WPI Dean). A doctor's note will be required for missed exams or late assignments due to illness. All assignments are due at the **beginning** of class – any assignment turned in after it is requested in class will receive a 20% penalty. Any assignment turned in more than one class session late (without a suitable reason) will receive a grade of 0.

*Note on the lectures*: Lectures in this class will be used to supplement, not duplicate the assigned reading. Since the text gives the necessary background information in great

detail, we will use class time primarily to reinforce the most basic and important points and explain their significance, to conduct or to discuss demonstrations of cognitive phenomena and other active learning exercises, and to explore areas not fully covered by the text.

*Accommodations for students with disabilities.* If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have medical information to share with me, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the [Disability Services Office](#) (DSO) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. The DSO is located in Daniels Hall, 508-831-5235.

*Academic Honesty.* Students are expected to be aware of and to adhere to [WPI's Academic Honesty Policy](#). If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, refer to the [Student Guide to Academic Integrity at WPI](#). Suspected violations of academic honesty will be handled in exact accordance with university policy.

*Opportunities in Psychology at WPI.* The Department of Social Science and Policy Studies offers a variety of courses in psychology, including educational psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, research methods in psychology, cross-cultural psychology, improving cognitive skills, and the psychology of environmental problems. Courses with a strong psychological component that are offered in other WPI departments include human-computer interaction and human factors, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and organizational science. A wide variety of psychology courses that count toward WPI degree designations are available at other schools in the Worcester Consortium. Students may obtain a Minor in Psychology by completing 6 courses. A Major in Psychological Science is also possible. Please see your instructor if you have any questions about these programs or other questions related to careers and opportunities in psychology.

Course Schedule:

Posted to the internet at

<http://users.wpi.edu/~rsbaker/CogPsy2011A/course-schedule-2011A.html>

Research Participation Requirement.

CANCELLED FOR PSY1401A, TERM A, 2011-2012