

Seminar in Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 235

Fall 2026 Section 01 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2026 to 12/07/2026 Modified 08/19/2026

PSYC 235-01 (48462) (javascript%3AsubmitAction_win0(document.win0,'CLASS_TITLE%240');)	Sem Cognitive Psy (Seminar)	TuTh 9:00AM - 10:15AM	Dudley Moorhead Hall 347	Aug 19, 2026- Dec 7, 2026
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Contact Information

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Course Information

Sadly we do not have a lower division prerequisite for this course of cognition/learning/memory or prior experience. We do, however, expect SOME appropriate background. Given the lack of a specific prerequisite and the general psychology (breadth) approach of the graduate training we are asking for this course relies heavily (50%) on (deeply accelerated) coverage of undergraduate cognition concepts [generally Tuesdays] with the extra depth from STUDENT-led article discussions (3 per day) [generally Thursdays]. There is an extra applied component to the course in that EVERY student is REQUIRED to design/build a computerized experiment (it can be a replication of existing work) in order to demonstrate their personal ability to program an experiment from scratch using E-PRIME, PSYSCOPE, or other psychology experiment building tools (it is possible to fully program your own experiment in C or other programming language but I do not expect this level of proficiency -- the idea is to learn to use some of the "off the shelf" experiment-building products.

Course Description and Requisites

Theories and current research in cognitive psychology with emphasis on components of cognitive processing from pattern recognition to problem solving. Substantial emphasis on cognitive development and mechanisms of cognitive change.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Letter Graded

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the MA in Research and Experimental Psychology degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the degree are:

1. Advanced Knowledge Base in Research and Experimental Psychology. Students completing the Research and Experimental Psychology MA program will be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of the major theoretical perspectives and research methods across areas of experimental psychology (e.g., Developmental, Social, Cognitive, and Physiological).
2. Research Skills and Scholarship. Graduates of our program will possess an advanced level of competence in research methods, statistical techniques, and technical writing skills. Students completing the Research and Experimental Psychology MA program are required to complete a thesis. The thesis will demonstrate:
 - 2.1 creative problem-solving in the design and implementation of empirical research.
 - 2.2 project management skills in the implementation of empirical research.
 - 2.3 advanced competency in the statistical analysis and interpretation of empirical research findings.
 - 2.4 communication (oral and written) of research findings at a professional level.
3. Career Enhancement. Students completing the Research and Experimental Psychology MA program will achieve career enhancement through placement in a doctoral program or acceptance of a position requiring a master's in psychology in the public or private sector.

Course Materials

**** e-book or hardcopy ok **** Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience 6th Edition is written by E. Bruce Goldstein; Ralph G Hale and published by Cengage Learning. The Digital and eTextbook ISBNs for Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience are 9798214582382, and the print ISBNs are 9798214143385, . Save up to 80% versus print by

going digital with VitalSource. Additional ISBNs for this eTextbook include 9788214143386, 9798214143453, 9798214143460.

<https://www.cengage.com/c/cognitive-psychology-connecting-mind-research-and-everyday-experience-6e-goldstein/9798214143385/>

Cognitive Psychology: connecting mind, research, and everyday experience

Author: Goldstein, E. Bruce

Publisher: Cengage

Edition: 6th

Year: 2026

ISBN: 9798214143460

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments [14]: 20%

Exams [6]: 50%

Class Chapter Presentations [3]: 9%

Question of the Day [9]: 6%

Computerized Cognition Experiment: 9%

Summary / Critiques [3]: 6%

Grading Information

A grade of Credit in a graduate-level course indicates performance by the student equal to a letter grade of “B-” or above.

A: 90+

B: 80+

C: 70+

[the top 1% and bottom 1% of each bracket corresponds to the +/-1 cut-off for this course]

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

please see the "syllabus" link for the schedule as it may be updated during the semester

Tuesday	Thursday	Major Product DUE
	Aug 20	
Aug 25	Aug 27	A1: intro
Sept 1	Sept 3 (no class, travel)	A0: zoom A2: neuro
Sept 8	Sept 10	A3: perception MID 1: C1-C3
Sept 15	Sept 17 (no class, travel)	A4: attention
Sept 22	Sept 25	A5: STM ORAL 1 (C1-C4)
Sept 29	Oct 1	A6: STM/LTM MID2: C4-C6
Oct 6	Oct 8	A7: Mnemonics
Oct 13	Oct 15	A8: False Memory MID3: C7, C8 ORAL 2: (C5-C8)
Oct 20	Oct 22	A9: prototypes A10: functional equivalency
Oct 27	Oct 29	A11: Language
Nov 3	Nov 5 (no class, travel)	MID4: C9-C11
Nov 10	Nov 12	A12: problem solving

Nov 17	Nov 19	A13: Heuristics MID5: C12-C13 ORAL 3: (C9-C13)
Nov 24	Nov 26 (no class, Thanksgiving)	A14 (optional): Metacognition
Dec 1	Dec 3	PROJECT PRESENTATION
	Dec 10 (8:30-10:30 final)	FINAL: intelligence + projects