

# Cognition Section 03

## PSYC 135

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024

## Contact Information

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Mike Dillinger, Ph.D.
<b>Office Location:</b>	230 Dudley Moorhead Hall
<b>Email:</b>	mike.dillinger@sjsu.edu [Best way to reach me!]
<b>Drop-In Hours (aka Office Hours):</b>	Wed 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM in my office or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mon & Wed 10:30 – 11:45 am
<b>Classroom:</b>	Boccardo Business Center 201
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	PSYC 1

## Course Description and Requisites

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The activities that make up knowing: acquisition, storage, and manipulation of knowledge. This includes the processes involved in those activities, including perception, memory, thinking, and language.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

## Course Materials

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All Materials will be on Canvas, except for the Textbook

Textbook [online, not printed]

E. Barenholtz, C. Burton, L. Mavica & H. Wehe (2022). *Cognitive Psychology*.

Toronto, Canada: Tophatmonocle Corp. [Available online at [topcoat.com](https://www.topcoat.com). If you

can't access it, please tell me.]

# Course Requirements and Assignments

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**Module Summaries (40% of final grade):** Write a 1-page summary of the most important points for 8 of the assigned modules (or module sections), in the order the modules are discussed. The summary should focus on the discussion question for the day when it is due (see the schedule below). When two modules are the topic of a specific day, summarize each in 1/2 page. If a module was already summarized before, there is no need to summarize it again. The summary is due BEFORE the class in which we will discuss that module.

**Group Presentation (10% of final grade):** Develop slides and present — in a team of 4 or 5 people — a summary of the research on one of the Cognitive Process-Domain pairs that appear in the schedule below. Each person should make 4 or 5 slides for a total group presentation time of about 20 minutes. Present it on a Wednesday according to the schedule.

**Individual Research Paper (30% of final grade):** Write an 8-page (at minimum 2,000 words long) individual paper summarizing the research about a specific cognitive process (across domains) or about a specific domain (across cognitive processes). Include at least 15 references, prioritizing books, book chapters, theses, or review articles. Collaborate with your classmates on bibliographical research but not on writing. Papers should adhere to APA style throughout. The paper is due Monday, December 9, 2024 by 11:59 PM and must be submitted on Canvas where it will be plagiarism-checked by TurnItIn.

**Final Exam (20% of final grade):** Exam will be given on Monday, December 9, 2024 in class, and will consist of questions covering the whole semester.

**Late Assignment Policy:** Note that late assignments will not be accepted.

**Optional Extra Credit Activities** (up to 5 points, 0.5 pt each lab): Complete the Interactive Labs available as part of the textbook.

## Grading Information

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### Grading Scale:

Grade		Grade	Percentage
A+	96.50 – 100%	B+	86.50 – 89.49%
A		B	82.50 – 86.59%
A-	89.50 – 92.49%	B-	79.50 – 82.49%

C+	76.50 - 79.49%	D+	66.50 – 69.49%
C	72.50 – 76.49%	D	62.50 – 66.49%
C-	69.50 – 72.49%	D-	59.50 – 62.49%
F	≤ 59.49%		

# University Policies

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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.

## Classroom Protocol

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We need to work together to foster an inclusive learning environment in which people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives are recognized, respected, and seen as a source of strength. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity with regard to gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions on how I can make this course more equitable and inclusive to all forms of diversity are encouraged and appreciated.

All students are expected to exhibit professionalism and respect for each other and the instructor. Specifically, this means arriving to class on time, being prepared for class, participating in discussions, being civil to your fellow classmates and instructor, and paying attention to in-class demonstrations and lectures. If you arrive late to class or need to leave early from class, please sit near the door so as not to disturb the rest of the class. **Please silence and put away cell phones during class.** If I see that you are using your cell phone during lecture, I will ask you to put it away. Repeated violations of the cell phone policy may result in further disciplinary action. You may record lectures only if you obtain my permission first, and such recordings are only to be used for personal study and may not be posted online.

### Academic Integrity

SJSU does not tolerate any forms of academic dishonesty in my courses. We all take issues of academic dishonesty very seriously and pursue disciplinary action rigorously, so please take extra care to avoid this sort of unpleasant situation. Any instances of cheating on exams results in an automatic 0 for the exam.

Plagiarized assignments automatically receive a score of 0. Plagiarism refers to using materials that you did not create (i.e., published works, work of other students, material created by artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT) and submitting it as your own creation without proper citation/attribution. When in doubt, remember this rule: All assignments in this course must be your own work and you must properly cite any resources that were used. Written assignments will be checked by TurnItIn and may be submitted to AI detection tools, as well.

I reserve the right to fail a student in the course if the academic dishonesty transgression is particularly severe. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development (SCED). Students may appeal any accusations of cheating or plagiarism to SCED.

## Program Information

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

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. Research Methods in Psychology. Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
3. Critical Thinking Skills. Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

# Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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- **CLO1:** Demonstrate knowledge of the different components of cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, and decision making.
- **CLO2:** Identify the cognitive mechanisms that underlie behavior.
- **CLO3:** Describe different research methods used in cognitive psychology research.
- **CLO4:** Infer appropriate conclusions from cognitive psychology research.
- **CLO5:** Communicate findings and implications from cognitive psychology research.
- **CLO6:** Synthesize evidence in favor of arguments pertaining to debates in cognitive psychology.
- **CLO7:** Evaluate and criticize arguments pertaining to issues in cognitive psychology.
- **CLO8:** Articulate how concepts in cognitive psychology apply to their everyday lives.
- **CLO9:** Respect the relative nature of empirical evidence.
- **CLO10:** Recognize the value of intellectual curiosity and skepticism.

# Course Schedule

## PSYC 135-03 / Cognition Fall, 2024 Course Schedule

(Schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and/or via Canvas.)

Week starting	Mondays	Textbook Chapters	Question for Summary	Wednesdays
August 19, 2024	no class			<b>First Day of class</b>
	Domains of Cognition: Self, Others, Other things	Modules 1 & 2 [no summary due]	What is cognition?	Project Work
September 2, 2024	Sensation	Module 4.1-4.2: Sensation	Which characteristics can we sense directly?	Project Work
September 9, 2024	Perception	Module 4: Perception	Which characteristics can we compute?	Project Work
September 16, 2024	Attention	Module 5: Attention	Which characteristics do we prioritize?	Project Work
September 23, 2024	Language Comprehension	Module 11.3: Language	How do we understand spoken/written texts?	Presentation: Acquiring information about Self
September 30, 2024	Working Memory: Immediate processing	Module 6: Short-term and Working Memory	What's the capacity of WM for each domain?	Presentation: Acquiring information about Others
October 7, 2024	Concept formation: Identification & Conceptualization	Module 9: Knowledge	How do we form concepts?	Presentation: Acquiring information about other things
October 14, 2024	Reasoning: Decision Making, Logic & Problem Solving, Creativity	Modules 12 & 13	How do we manipulate facts & beliefs?	Presentation: Manipulating information about Self
October 21, 2024	Dreaming & Imagining	Module 10: Visual Imagery	What can we do with no direct input?	Presentation: Manipulating information about Others
October 28, 2024	Language to Guide Reasoning	Module 11.6	How can we guide others' thoughts and reasoning with language?	Presentation: Manipulating information about other things

November 4, 2024	Open Topic: You tell me : )
November 11, 2024	<b>Holiday</b>
November 18, 2024	Kinds of Memory: experiences, procedures, facts
November 25, 2024	Memory for Language
December 2, 2024	Synthesis & Applications
	<b>Last Day of class: Final Exam</b>

Presentation: Store/Retrieve information about other things
<b>Holiday</b>
Synthesis & Applications