

**San José State University**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 135-01 (30940) COGNITION**

**Summer 2024**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s): Mark Van Selst  
Office Location: DMH 314  
Telephone: 408 924 5674  
Email: Mark.VanSelst@SJSU.edu  
Office Hours: Tue, Thur 11:30-12:00  
Class Days/Time: Tue, Thur 12:00-5:45 (nine 5-hour classes – it’s brutal [plus some time for breaks])  
Classroom: [ZOOM](https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/83469769660) (https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/83469769660)  
Prerequisites: PSYC 1 (introductory psychology)

**Course Description (Required - Delete the word “Required” in final draft)**

The activity of knowing: acquisition, organization and use of knowledge. Processes involved in that activity, including perception, memory, thinking and language.

**Course Format:** Online Synchronous via [ZOOM](https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/83469769660) (https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/83469769660) plus CANVAS

**Course Communication:**

*Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for ensuring that you frequently access the email you use for SJSU communications. Minor changes to due dates or percentages for assignments will appear in Canvas.*

**Course Goals and Outcomes align with the BA Psychology Program Goals in the following ways:**

**Goal 1. Knowledge Base of Psychology:**

Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in cognitive psychology.

**Goal 2. Research Methods in Psychology:**

Students will understand basic methodological approaches used in cognitive psychology, including research design, analysis, and interpretation.

**Goal 3. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology:**

Students will understand and be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

**Goal 4. Application of Psychology:**

Students will understand and be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

## Goal 5. Values in Psychology:

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

## Required Textbook

*Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience*

by E. Bruce Goldstein

5th Edition | Copyright 2019

## Library Liaison

**Christa Bailey:** [christa.bailey@sjsu.edu](mailto:christa.bailey@sjsu.edu)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Please review the following policies and resources:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)
- [University's Syllabus Information web page](#)

Note that SJSU requires ALL instances of plagiarism/unauthorized AI-use to student conduct. The SJSU writing center is available to help with syntax/grammar development. This courses uses the Turn-it-in plagiarism and AI-detection tools.

Assignments (see CANVAS for grading breakdown: (35.5%)

ASST 0: Zoom image when not sharing video

ASST 1: Core Concepts for Cognition (essay)

ASST 2: Neuroscience (essay)

ASST 3: Perception (essay)

ASST 4: Attention (essay)

ASST 5: Short-term Memory (glossary + essay)

ASST 6: Memory Systems (essay)

ASST 7: Mnemonics

ASST 8: False Memories (essay)

ASST 9: Prototype Representation (essay)

ASST 10: Functional Equivalency in Vision [representation] (essay)

ASST 11: Language (essay)

ASST 12: Problem-Solving

ASST 13: Biases in Reasoning (essay)

ASST 14: Values & Application of Cognitive Psychology

REPLACEMENT ASSIGNMENT: can be used to swap out with up to two points of missed ASST work

Weekly mid-term (14% x4) + final (4%) (60%)

“question of the day” (each class) (.5% x 9) (4.5%)

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## Final Examination or Evaluation

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment. For this course the exam for Chapter 13 and the final assignments will constitute this final examination/culminating activity.

## Grading Information

*Grading will be guided by the following university policies:*

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](#)
- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](#)

## Determination of Grades

*A plus = from 100 to 96 percent*

*A = 92.5 percent*

*A minus = 90 percent*

*B plus = 87.5 percent*

*B = 82.5 percent*

*B minus = 80 percent*

*C plus = 77.5 percent*

*C = 72.5 percent*

*C minus = 70 percent*

*D plus = 67.5 percent*

*D = 62.5 percent*

*D minus = 60 percent – this is the minimum grade for credit towards the BA in Psychology*

*F = less than 60 percent*

A “W” (withdrawal) requires a formal process. A “WU” (withdrawal, unauthorized) is appropriate only when there is substantive work missing from the course. An “INC” (incomplete) is appropriate only when there is a small amount of missing content and there is a plan in place to backfill that material. An “INC” will have a default grade assigned in the case that the work does not get submitted in a timely fashion.

## Classroom Protocol

Each class represents a week and a half of regular semester work. As such, it is critical that you be engaged and participate actively. While there are always some speedbumps, I expect us to work collaboratively together in support of appropriate educational outcomes. This means that all work you turn in represents your own personal efforts, avoiding plagiarism, pay-to-write services, AI-generation of content, etc. I have tried to personalize the assignments to the specifics of this course to minimize such temptations.

## University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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 [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## TUESDAY

**June 4** (C1, C2)  
ASST 0, 1 due Friday

**June 11** (C4, C5)  
ASST 4 due Friday

**June 18** (C7, C8)  
ASST 7 due Friday

**June 25** (C10, C11)  
ASST 10 due Friday

**July 2** (C13)  
Asst 13, 14 due WED  
Mid 5 – Wednesday (4%)

## THURSDAY

**June 6** (C2, C3)  
Asst 2, 3 due Friday  
Mid 1 – Friday (14%)

**June 13** (C5, C6)  
Asst 5, 6 due Friday  
Mid 2 – Friday (14%)

**June 20** (C8, C9)  
Asst 8, 9 due Friday  
Mid 3 – Friday (14%)

**June 27** (C11, C12)  
ASST 11, 12 due Friday  
Mid 4 – Friday (14%)