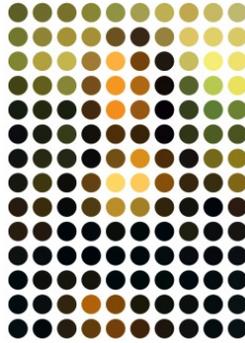


PSYC S210: Cognitive Psychology

Fall 2025



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1 Course information

Class Schedule M/T/Th/F 4:00–4:50 pm
Room G218

Instructor Alan Jern
Office: A202D
Email: jern@rose-hulman.edu

Open meeting time Thursdays, 3:00–3:50 pm (on Teams)

2 Overview and objectives

Cognitive psychology is the study of the mind. This course provides an overview of the science of how the mind works, including how people perceive, learn, think, remember, and use language. At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe major theories of cognition and recall key experimental results that support them.
- Identify and explain the ways in which the human mind is and is not like other animal and machine minds.
- Critically evaluate a psychological theory or experiment.

- Formulate and defend a position on several key theoretical debates within cognitive psychology.
- Apply basic cognitive psychology concepts to everyday situations.

3 Assessment

Component	Points
Syllabus quiz	10
In-class exams (2)	300
Take-home exams (2)	300
Assignments (2)	200
Participation	150
Reading quizzes	80
Presentation	50

3.1 In-class exams

Exams will be non-cumulative and will consist of several short answer questions about topics from the preceding weeks. They will be handwritten, closed-materials, and closed-notes. You will not be allowed access to the web during the exam. The purpose of these exams is to test your retention and factual knowledge.

3.1.1 Missing exams

If you miss an in-class exam, you will receive a 0 for that exam. These are the only exceptions:

1. You are traveling on an exam day for a Rose-affiliated event. You must notify me in advance with documentation and I will arrange for you to take the exam **at an earlier time**. Otherwise, you will receive a 0.
2. You are sick. Provide me with a doctor's note (or a note from Health Services). You do not need to provide the note in advance, so don't stress out about getting to Health Services before class if you are sick—just get the note to me as soon as possible. In this case, I will replace the score for the missed exam with your other (not missed) in-class exam score. Failure to provide me with a valid note will result in a score of 0.
3. An unexpected personal or family emergency that isn't captured by the exceptions above (judged on a case-by-case basis). Contact me if something urgent and unexpected comes up and I will try to work out a fair solution.

3.2 Take-home exams

Following each in-class exam will be a take-home exam consisting of the same questions as the in-class exam. The main difference is that you will only answer one question, and you will have full access to the web, class materials, and your notes. Additionally, you will be permitted and expected to use AI to produce a response of exceptionally high quality.

3.3 Presentation

Following the second take-home exam, you will give a presentation summarizing what you learned, how you used AI to complete your response, and how you improved any AI output to produce something better written, more accurate, and/or more relevant.

3.4 Assignments

Two assignments will require you to think more deeply about one topic or reading from the class and/or perform a simple experiment and then write a short reflection.

3.5 Participation

This course will be heavily dependent on discussion. Therefore you are expected to come to class having already completed the required reading and prepared to discuss it thoughtfully.

Your participation will be self-assigned using a rubric I will provide you. At three points in the quarter, you will use the rubric to determine what participation score you have earned for that third of the quarter. I will review these scores and may make adjustments if I feel they are off the mark. Your class participation score will be the sum of these scores.

3.6 Reading quizzes

To encourage you to come to class having completed the reading, there will be brief in-class online reading quizzes some days. The dates of these quizzes will not be announced in advance. A few notes about the reading quizzes:

- Each quiz will be worth 10 points and your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.
- If you miss a quiz for any reason, you will get a 0 for that quiz. These quizzes cannot be taken early or made up.
- These quizzes will begin automatically at the start of class and you must be present in class to get credit for completing them.
- Everyone will have “double time”. This means that the quizzes will be designed to be completed in 5 minutes but everyone will have 10 minutes to complete them. If you have testing accommodations that you feel are not satisfied by this arrangement, I encourage you talk to me and we’ll work out a solution.

3.7 Final grade

Grades will be assigned as follows.

4 Course policies

4.1 Late assignments

For anything you submit on Moodle (the stuff in the Due column on the schedule at the end of this syllabus except the in-class exams marked in red), you will have two free late days that you

Points	Grade
≥ 90%	A
87%–89.9%	B+
80%–86.9%	B
77%–79.9%	C+
70%–76.9%	C
67%–69.9%	D+
60%–66.9%	D
< 60%	F

may apply across the quarter. This means you can turn one thing in two days late or two things in each one day late with no penalty. Something counts as one day late if it is submitted anytime after from the submission deadline until 24 hours later.

After your two free late days have been used, no more late submissions will be accepted, **no exceptions**. If you submit something late after you have used your two free late days, you will receive a 0. So **only use your free late days for unexpected events**.

4.2 Anonymous grading

Do not include your name on anything (including file name) you submit on Moodle, unless I say otherwise. The reason for this is because I use a feature on Moodle called anonymous grading that lets me grade your assignments without seeing your names. Your names are revealed after I've finished grading the assignment. I do this to keep my grading as impartial as possible.

4.3 Asking for help

I highly encourage you to contact me if you ever need help in this course. That's what I'm here for! But I also want to encourage you to be self-sufficient. So if you ever ask me a question that can be easily answered on this syllabus or the Moodle page (a due date, a page limit, a detail about the late policy), **I will deduct 1 point from your grade total**.

The corollary of this policy is that if you ever find anything on this syllabus or the Moodle page that looks like a genuine mistake (the wrong date, inconsistent information) and you ask me about it, **I will give you 1 point of extra credit**. (Only the first person to tell me gets the extra credit.)

You don't need to be afraid to contact me. The point of this policy is to incentivize you to try to find answers yourselves first. If you look for an answer and genuinely can't find it, I want to know that too. Just tell me you tried to find it on your own first and where you looked. You won't be penalized for this.

4.4 Academic integrity

Academic misconduct will be addressed according to the policies described in the [Rose-Hulman student handbook](#). Academic misconduct includes: (1) copying other people's work; (2) copying ideas, words, or graphics from any source without appropriate citation; (3) misrepresenting your work or yourself (i.e., deliberately submitting the wrong assignment or lying to explain a late assignment); (4) collaborating with other students when this is not permitted; and (5) submitting

the same work for credit in two courses without prior consent of both instructors. If you are unsure whether something qualifies as academic misconduct, please check with me before doing it.

5 Course schedule

The following schedule lists topics, readings, and due dates for the whole term. This schedule is subject to change. Schedule changes will be announced in class and will be posted online. I will give you plenty of notice when changes are made.

† indicates a student-led discussion.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
0	9/4	Introduction		
	9/5	Introduction	Hartree	
1	9/8	Foundations	Stanovich Ch. 3	Syllabus quiz
	9/9	Foundations	Noba: The Brain	
	9/11	Foundations		
	9/12	Perception	Noba: Vision	
2	9/15	Perception		
	9/16	Perception	Tversky & Kahneman	
	9/18	Perception	Rozenblit & Keil	
	9/19	Perception	Kemp et al	
3	9/22	Perception	Elpers et al	
	9/23	Attention	OECS: Attention	
	9/25	Attention	Simons & Chabris	Participation 1
	9/26			Exam 1
4	9/29	Attention	Rosenberger	
	9/30	Attention	The Studies Show	Take-home exam 1
	10/2	Memory	Noba: Memory	
	10/3	Exam 1 discussion		
5	10/6	Memory		
	10/7	Memory		
	10/9	BREAK		
	10/10	BREAK		
6	10/13	Memory		
	10/14	Memory	OECS: Concepts	
	10/16	Memory		
	10/17	Memory	Schachter	
7	10/20	Memory	Loftus articles	Assignment 1
	10/21	Memory	Clark & Chalmers	
	10/23	Memory	Foer	
	10/24	Language	Gleitman & Newport	Participation 2
8	10/27	Language	Pinker	Assignment 2
	10/28	Language		
	10/30	Language	Shah	
	10/31	Language	Zimmer	
9	11/3			Exam 2
	11/4	Consciousness	Chalmers	
	11/6	Consciousness	Dennett	

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
	11/7	Consciousness	Searle	Take-home exam 2
10	11/10	Presentations		
	11/11	Presentations		
	11/13	Presentations		
	11/14	Presentations		Participation 3