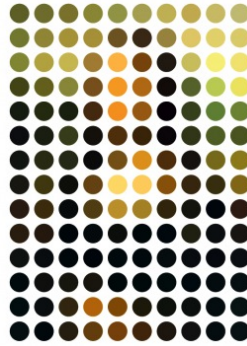


PSYC S210: Cognitive Psychology

Fall 2026



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1 Course information

Class Schedule M/T/Th/F 4:00–4:50 pm
Room J213

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

Open meeting time TBD (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
Exams (3)	300
Reading quizzes	80
Take-home assignment	50
Participation	150

3.1 Exams

Exams will require you to write a short essay in class from a short list of topics I provide to you in advance.

3.2 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.

3.3 Take-home assignment

One assignment will ask you to collect some data for an experiment that we will discuss in class.

3.4 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.

3.5 Final grade

Grades will be assigned as follows.

Points	Grade
$\geq 90\%$	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

4 Course policies

Late assignments (including the self-assigned participation scores) will receive a point penalty that doubles for each additional day they are late. Specifically:

- 1 day late: 1% deduction
- 2 days late: 2% deduction
- 3 days late: 4% deduction
- 4 days late: 8% deduction
- 5 days late: 16% deduction
- 6 days late: 32% deduction
- 7 days late: 64% deduction
- 8+ days late: No credit

An assignment counts as 1 day late as soon as the deadline for that assignment has passed. If you submit an assignment late, you do not need to notify me. Just submit the assignment on Moodle. It will be automatically timestamped and I will deduct the appropriate number of points when I grade it.

There will be no exceptions made to this late policy and no assignments will be accepted later than 7 days after their deadlines. You should plan to submit your assignments before the deadline. The purpose of this policy is that if something unexpected comes up, you can submit one or two days late with minimal penalty.

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 AI policy

Unless stated otherwise on specific assignments, submitting AI-generated work in this class is not permitted and will be treated as academic misconduct.

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	9/3	Introduction		
	9/4	Introduction	Stanovich Ch. 3	
1	9/7	HOLIDAY		
	9/8	Foundations	Noba: The Brain	Syllabus quiz
	9/10	Foundations		
	9/11	Perception	Noba: Vision	
2	9/14	Perception		
	9/15	Perception	Tversky & Kahneman	
	9/17	Perception	Rozenblit & Keil	
	9/18	Perception	Kemp et al	
3	9/21	Perception	Elpers et al	
	9/22	Exam prep		
	9/24	Attention	OECS: Attention	
	9/25	Attention	Simons & Chabris	Participation 1
4	9/28			Exam 1
	9/29	Attention	Rosenberger	
	10/1	Attention	Science Fictions	
	10/2	Memory	Noba: Memory	
5	10/5	Memory		
	10/6	Memory		
	10/8	BREAK		
	10/9	BREAK		
6	10/12	Memory	Memento	
	10/13	Memory	OECS: Concepts	
	10/15	Memory		
	10/16	Memory	Schachter	
7	10/19			Exam 2
	10/20	Memory	Loftus articles	
	10/22	Memory	Clark & Chalmers	
	10/23	Memory	Foer	Participation 2
8	10/26	Language	Gleitman & Newport	
	10/27	Language	Pinker	Assignment
	10/29	Language		
	10/30	Language	Shah	
9	11/2	Language	Zimmer	
	11/3	Decision-making		
	11/5	Decision-making		

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
	11/6	Decision-making		
10	11/9	Consciousness	Chalmers	
	11/10	Consciousness	Dennett	
	11/12	Consciousness	Searle	Participation 3
	11/13			Exam 3