

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**Division of Social Science**  
**SOSC2250 Cognitive Psychology**  
**Fall Semester, 2023**

	<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
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<b>Consultation</b>	By appointment	By appointment

\*When contacting us by email, please ***prefix the subject line*** of your message with the course code [SOSC2250]. Use your university email account only.

**Lecture Time:** Tue & Thu 10:30-11:50pm (HKT)

**Venue:** Rm 2404, Lift 17-18

### **Course Description**

Cognitive Psychology explores mental processes, including perception, attention, memory, language processing, and problem-solving. This course introduces basic concepts, theories, research findings, and new developments in studying how people acquire, store, and use information and knowledge. Methods and skills in investigating cognitive processes will also be discussed. Students are expected to gain experience in conducting cognitive psychology experiments and writing laboratory reports.

### **Prerequisites**

Successful completion of SOSC1969 Discovering Mind and Behavior, SOSC1960 Introduction to Psychology or SOSC1980 Psychology of Personal Growth is required as a prerequisite for enrolling in this course.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to,

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the major concepts, findings, and theories in cognitive psychology, while recognizing and appreciating their significance in the field;
2. Acquire practical skills and hands-on experience in conducting research within the domain of cognitive psychology;
3. Develop critical thinking skills to effectively evaluate empirical evidence and draw well-informed conclusions;
4. Apply their knowledge of cognition to enhance their performance in everyday life, effectively utilizing cognitive strategies and insights; &
5. Cultivate effective communication skills through written and oral presentations, enabling them to convey complex ideas and research findings clearly and persuasively.

## Recommended Reading Resources

Goldstein, E. B. (2018). *Cognitive psychology: Connecting mind, research and everyday experience* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Cengage Learning.

## Assessment Scheme

Tasks	Weighting
Mid-Term Test	15%
Lab Reports	30%
Group Project	30%
Final Examination	25%

### 1. Mid-Term Test (15%)

- Mid-Term Quiz will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The quiz will include multiple-choice questions only (The relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- The quiz is scheduled on **Oct 19** and covers topics from **Week 1 to 6**.
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the quizzes. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.
- Please arrive on time for the quiz as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
- No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate ***within 24 hours of the original exam date*** if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

### 2. Lab Reports (15% x 2)

- A cognitive psychology lab report aims to summarize and analyze the findings of a cognitive psychology experiment. As part of this process, students will attend **TWO** tutorial sessions where they will participate in cognitive experiments and gain hands-on experience with the methods and concepts of cognitive psychology. After participating in these experiments, students will be required to write **TWO** lab reports, one for each tutorial, that discusses their findings and their implications for cognitive psychology research.
- The guidelines for the reports will be uploaded on Canvas in due course. Please read and follow the instructions carefully. Deadline: **Lab Report 1 is due on 13 Oct 12 noon** and **Lab Report 2 is due on 15 Nov 12noon**.

### 3. Group Project (30%)

A group of 4-5 students will collaborate to study a cognitive assessment and deliver a presentation to the class, showcasing how the assessment reflects an individual's cognitive functions. It is expected that students will develop a fundamental understanding of the selected cognitive assessment and generate thoughtful questions regarding its application. Prior to the tutorial, each student in the group is required to conduct a literature review to ensure a fruitful discussion with their lecturer and peers. Finally, the group will be expected to present their findings for 15-minute including a Q&A session.

### 4. Final Examination (25%)

- Final quiz will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The exam will include multiple-choice questions only and non-cumulative (The relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- The final quiz is scheduled on **30 Nov** and covers topics from **Week 7 to 11**.
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the exam. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.
- No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate *within 24 hours of the original exam date* if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

### Academic Integrity

You should observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/regulations-student-conduct-and-academic-integrity>). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating would result in a reduction of scores or even a failing grade in the course. We will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism and report the confirmed case to the Division of Social Science for further review or action. Make sure you understand academic honesty.

### Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news.

### Some Other Notes

Do **NOT** leave messages in the CANVAS inbox.

- ***Interaction in class*** – I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the lecturer and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participation in class discussion or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.
- ***Lecture slides*** – Lecture slides will be posted to CANVAS before each class, but the contents will be a bit different from the displayed slides as I hope to encourage you to take your own notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.
- ***Penalties*** – Score deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit. Details can be found in the assignment guidelines.
- ***Late submission*** – Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will not be penalized. No submissions will be accepted after 5pm HKT on the due date.
- ***Communication*** – Please expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10am to 6pm HKT.
- ***Your feedback*** – Your opinions about the course are very valuable to help me improve the course. Feel free to drop by to talk to me. A course evaluation will also be held at the end of the course.

## Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	5 Sep	Introduction	Ch. 1
	7 Sep	Research Methods in Cognitive Psychology	Ch. 2
2	12 Sep	Perception	Ch. 3
	14 Sep		
3	19 Sep	Attention	Ch. 4
	21 Sep		
4	26 Sep	[Tutorial 1] Introduction to PsychPy	-
	28 Sep	Class 1 - [Tutorial 2A: Lab 1] Class 2 - [Tutorial 2B: Project Discussion]	-
5	3 Oct	Class 1 - [Tutorial 2B: Project Discussion] Class 2 - [Tutorial 2A: Lab 1]	-
	5 Oct	Short Term Memory	Ch. 5
6	10 Oct	Long Term Memory	Ch. 6
	12 Oct	False Memory and Forgetting <b>&lt;Lab Report 1 Due on 13 Oct 12noon&gt;</b>	Ch. 7
7	17 Oct	Conceptual Knowledge	Ch. 9
	19 Oct	<b>Mid-Term Test</b>	-
8	24 Oct	<b>Mid-Term Break (No class)</b>	-
	26 Oct		
9	31 Oct	Class 1 - [Tutorial 3A: Project Discussion] Class 2 - [Tutorial 3B: Lab 2]	-
	2 Nov	Class 1 - [Tutorial 3B: Lab 2] Class 2 - [Tutorial 3A Project Discussion]	-
10	7 Nov	Language	Ch. 11
	9 Nov		
11	14 Nov	Problem Solving & Creativity <b>&lt;Lab Report 2 Due on 15 Nov 12noon&gt;</b>	Ch. 12
	16 Nov	Judgement, Decision Making & Reasoning	Ch. 13
12	21 Nov	Presentation (Group 1-4)	-
	23 Nov	Presentation (Group 5-8)	-
13	28 Nov	Presentation (Group 9-12)	-
	30 Nov	<b>Final Examination</b>	-