Cognition and Perception Core  
PSYC 2145  
Section 004  

Fall 2005 Syllabus  
Instructor: Katharine Tepe

**Instructor Information**
Name: Katharine Tepe  
Office: Muenzinger E213B  
Office Hours: 10-11 am Mon and Wed, or by appointment  
Office phone: 303-492-6943 (2-6943 if calling from campus)  
Email: littlek@colorado.edu

**Course Information**
Times: MWF 10:00-10:50 am  
Room: Meunzinger E113  
Class Website: http://psych-swiki.colorado.edu:8080/2145-004  
User: student, Password: 2145

**Required Reading**

**Textbook:**  

**Other:**  
The following readings are downloadable from the class website:


Course Description and Goals
What happens in our brain when we think? How do we make decisions? Why is eyewitness testimony faulty? How can we improve our memory? How is knowledge stored in our brains? How are we able to focus our attention? These are some basic questions on how we think that cognitive psychologists work to answer. In this class, you have the opportunity to learn about this fascinating branch of psychology, including topics of perception, attention, memory, imagery, language, decision making, and problem solving. We will explore how the research methods used in cognitive psychology reveal the inner processes at work in our mind. Also, we will explore how they are related to our daily lives, and to all branches of psychology, including human factors, social psychology, clinical psychology, and forensic psychology.

By the end of this course, you should:
- Understand on a deeper level how our mind works when we think and perceive.
- Have a broad overview of the current theory and topics in cognitive psychology.
- Understand how cognitive psychology relates to other branches of psychology.

Course Requirements

Class Exams (total 300 points):
There will be 4 exams during the semester. Only 3 of the exams will count towards your grade – the exam with the lowest grade will be dropped. Each exam will cover only the material covered between the last exam (or beginning of the semester) and the current exam. Each exam will be mostly multiple choice with 2-3 short essay questions. The exams will cover information in the lecture material, textbook, and other assigned readings. Each exam will be based on 100 points, but because only three exams will be used in the final grade, the total accumulated points from the exams will be 300 points.

Pop Quizzes (total 50 points)
There will be 8 unannounced quizzes covering the reading material (textbook chapter and/or other assigned reading) due for that class day. They will be given in the first 10-15 minutes of class and will consist of 5-7 multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Each quiz will be worth 10 points, but the 3 lowest scoring quizzes will be dropped, so that the total number of points due to quizzes will be 50 points (5 quizzes x 10 points each). The purpose of these quizzes is to help you keep up with the reading, provide feedback on your understanding of the material, and to provide an incentive to attend class.

Final Exam (total 200 points):
There will be a comprehensive final exam covering all of the material covered in the course. The final exam will be based on 200 points, and will be mostly multiple choice with 4-5 short essay questions. The final is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm.
If you have three or more final exams scheduled for the same day, then you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the LAST exam or exams scheduled on that day. Note that the **deadline** for making such arrangements is Sept. 30, 2005.

**Grading**

3 Exams x 100 pts each = 300 pts  
5 quizzes x 10 pts each = 50 pts  
1 Final = 200 pts  
Total Points = 550

You can estimate your final grade based on this example:  
Joe Schmo gets 85%, 64%, 95%, and 78% on his 4 exams. The lowest score (64%) is dropped, so his exam score is based on the other 3 exams. On his 8 quizzes he gets 100%, 85%, 90%, 90%, 50%, 75%, 100%, 100%. The 3 lowest quizzes are dropped, so his quiz scored is based on the other 5 quizzes. On his final he gets 88%, from getting 176 out of 200 points.

- Exams: $85 + 95 + 78 = 258$ points  
- Quizzes: $10 + 9 + 9 + 10 + 10 = 48$ points  
- Final: $176$ points  
- Total: $482$ points

His score is taken out of 550 total points, so his final grade is:

$$\frac{482}{550} \times 100 = 87.6\% \quad B+$$

Grades will be based on the standard scale:

- A 93.0 - 100.0 % of the reference score
- A- 90.0 - 92.9 % of the reference score
- B+ 87.0 - 89.9 % of the reference score
- B 83.0 - 86.9 % of the reference score
- B- 80.0 - 82.9 % of the reference score
- C+ 77.0 - 79.9 % of the reference score
- C 73.0 - 76.9 % of the reference score
- C- 70.0 - 72.9 % of the reference score
- D+ 67.0 - 69.9 % of the reference score
- D 63.0 - 66.9 % of the reference score
- D- 60.0 - 62.9 % of the reference score
- F 59.9 or below % of the reference score

**Policy on Contesting Grades:**

If you believe a grade to be in error, you should provide a written explanation within 3 days from the return of the exam or quiz.
**Attendance Policy**
I will not take attendance in class, and understand that occasionally it is necessary to miss class. However, I encourage you to attend class because I will make it as interactive as possible with discussion and demonstrations, to help you understand and think about the material. Also, some of the material in the exams will be from the lecture and may not be covered in the readings.

If you happen to miss a pop quiz or an exam then you will get a 0 for that quiz or exam and it will one of the 3 quizzes or 1 exam dropped from your score (unless you meet the criteria for makeups described below). However, only 3 quiz scores and 1 exam score will be dropped, so if you miss more than 3 quizzes or more than 1 exam, any other missed quizzes or exams (with 0 points) will be included in your final score.

**Makeup Exams/Quizzes/Finals**
There are only two possible ways that I will have a makeup exam, quiz, or final: 1) one of the circumstances covered by the policies listed below apply, or 2) your absence is due to extreme circumstances and is appropriately documented. If you decide not to attend class and miss a pop quiz or a test, you will get a score of 0 for that quiz/exam, and it will be one of the exams or quizzes that will be dropped from your total point score.

**Missing Exams or Quizzes Due to Religious Observances**
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, notify me within the first few weeks of class of any religious observances occurring on scheduled class days. If you notify me in advance then I can make appropriate accommodations. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

**Missing Exam or Quizzes Due Being on a CU Sports Team**
If you’re on a CU sports team and absolutely have to miss an exam or might miss a pop quiz, inform me within the first few weeks of class. If you notify me in advance and an appropriate document is turned in, I can make appropriate accommodations.

**Cheating/Honor Code**
I encourage all of you to be familiar with CU’s Honor Code. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). In this course, any student caught
cheating will receive an F for the entire course.

Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at
http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

**Disability Policy**
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me
from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed.
Disabilities include (but are not limited to) learning disabilities and hearing, sight, or
mobility impairments. If you have a disability that may impact your work in this class
and for which you may require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible
and visit or contact Disability Services. Disability Services determines accommodations
based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or
www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

**Classroom Behavior**
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning
environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to
discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with
understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable
limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at
http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html@student_code

**Sexual Harrassment Policy**
The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and
faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation,
threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive.
Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between
any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and
administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the
workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he
has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at
303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the
OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been
sexually harassed can be obtained at:
http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/
# Course Calendar and Topic Outline

Check website for the latest schedule!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>08/22/05 Syllabus and Introduction</td>
<td>08/24/05 Introduction and History Ch. 1</td>
<td>08/26/05 Methods Ch. 1 (14-19); Ch. 2 (44-52)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>08/29/05 Brain Ch. 2</td>
<td>08/31/05 Brain Ch. 2</td>
<td>09/02/05 Perception Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>09/05/05 Labor Day No Class</td>
<td>09/07/05 Perception Ch. 3</td>
<td>09/09/05 Perception Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/12/05 Perception Ch. 3</td>
<td>09/14/05 Perception; Review for Exam 1</td>
<td>09/16/05 EXAM 1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>09/19/05 Attention Ch. 4</td>
<td>09/21/05 Attention Ch. 4</td>
<td>09/23/05 Attention Ch. 4</td>
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<td>09/26/05 Memory Overview Ch. 5</td>
<td>09/28/05 STM/WM Ch. 5</td>
<td>09/30/05 STM/WM Ch. 5; Ericsson reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10/03/05 STM/WM Ch. 5</td>
<td>10/05/05 LTM Ch. 6</td>
<td>10/07/05 LTM Ch. 6; Loftus reading</td>
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<td>10/10/05 LTM; Review for Exam 2 Ch. 6</td>
<td>10/12/05 EXAM 2</td>
<td>10/14/05 Fall Break No Class</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10/17/05 Everyday Memory Ch. 7</td>
<td>10/19/05 Everyday Memory Ch. 7</td>
<td>10/21/05 Everyday Memory Ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10/24/05 Knowledge Ch. 8</td>
<td>10/26/05 Knowledge Ch. 8</td>
<td>10/28/05 Knowledge Ch. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/31/05 Imagery Ch. 9</td>
<td>11/02/05 Imagery Ch. 9</td>
<td>11/04/05 Imagery; Review for Exam 3 Ch. 9</td>
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<td>11/07/05 EXAM 3</td>
<td>11/09/05 Problem Solving Ch. 11</td>
<td>11/11/05 Problem Solving Ch. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11/14/05 Problem Solving Ch. 11; Klein reading</td>
<td>11/16/05 Decision Making Ch. 12</td>
<td>11/18/05 Decision Making Ch. 12</td>
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<td>11/21/05 Decision Making Ch. 12; Tierney reading</td>
<td>11/23/05 Language Ch. 10</td>
<td>11/25/05 Thanksgiving Break No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11/28/05 Language Ch. 10; Hickok reading</td>
<td>11/30/05 Language Ch. 10</td>
<td>12/02/05 Catchup/New Topic; Review for Exam 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>12/05/05 EXAM 4</td>
<td>12/07/05 Course Wrap-Up; Review for Final</td>
<td>12/09/05 (Finals) No Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CAVEAT:** This syllabus is subject to changes by the instructor. An up-to-date version will be available on the course website.
1. **Text:**  
(2606, Section 002)  

2. **Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 23-30</td>
<td>Introduction/Methods</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 01-06</td>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 08-13</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>SPA 1 (504-535)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>Social Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>* EXAM 1 *</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-29</td>
<td>Attraction/Close Relationships</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 04-06</td>
<td>Self Knowledge</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-18</td>
<td>Conformity/Obedience</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>Self Justification</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>* EXAM 2 *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 01-03</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>08-10</td>
<td>Hate Groups</td>
<td>Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Optional Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>Attitudes</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29-Dec. 06</td>
<td>Prejudice</td>
<td>Ch. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>FINAL (Exam 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues, Dec. 13, 7:30-10:00 a.m. (in class)</td>
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</table>
3. **Short term paper (optional)**

- The short term paper grade will be averaged with the lowest exam grade for Exam 1 or 2.
- You **MUST** take 3 exams.
- The paper is optional, not required.
- The paper is to be based on an **Active “Try It” Exercise** (e.g. A project where you must go out and do some informal research—not just a “thinking” exercise). See “Try It” boxes in text.
- The format for the paper (3-4 pages) should be:
  1) **Statement** of “Try It” exercise and where to find it in text.
  2) **Methods:** how did you go about collecting data
  3) **Results:** of your research
  4) **Integration** of your study to the relevant topics in text.
- **Paper Due – Tues., Nov. 15**

  **No exceptions.** No short papers accepted after Nov. 15. So start early with enough time to finish project.