Cognitive and Affective Psychology
18:820:505:01 Spring 2014

Instructor: Robert W. Isenhower, Ph.D.

Time/Place: Tuesday, 4:15-7:00 PM, Psychology Building A317

Contact Info: risenhow@rci.rutgers.edu

Office/Hours: Tuesday, 7-8 PM (Extra times by appointment)

Course Description: We will review selected theory and research in the areas of cognitive and affective psychology. The course format will be a mix of lectures to contextualize weekly readings, in-class paper presentations, discussion based on the readings, and demonstrations/activities.

Course Objectives: Develop familiarity with major historical theories and current research in cognitive and affective psychology. Understand the conduct of science in cognitive and affective psychology, and to learn how to read, interpret, and critically evaluate research in cognitive and affective psychology. Develop an appreciation of how findings from basic research in cognitive and affective psychology can influence the practice of clinical psychology.

Readings: All required readings are listed on the schedule below and will be made available through the Sakai site for the course. Supplemental readings on the Sakai site may be provided to facilitate further exploration of a topic and to help you choose a topic for your paper.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required.

Grading: In class paper presentations (2) 30%
Midterm paper (draft) 20%
Final paper 30%
Weekly questions 20%
Total: 100%

In class paper presentations
A large portion of your grade will come from assigned readings that you will present during the semester. I will do my best to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to select the readings they want to present. Please choose at least one reading from and one from emotion. I suggest using PowerPoint to help structure and constrain your presentations. No more than 6 slides will be allowed per paper. You must cover the entire paper.

Weekly questions
On weeks that you are not assigned an in class presentation, you are responsible for writing and handing in one question about each of the
assigned readings for the week. Questions may be about either theoretical issues or empirical/methodological aspects of the readings. **Questions are due Monday before class. Please email them to me, but bring a copy to class as a reference.** I may field some of your questions to the class to facilitate discussion of the readings, unless you all volunteer. So speak up!

*Midterm paper draft*

You will be asked to write a paper based on a topic that piques your interest in cognitive and affective psychology. Topics may include, but are not limited to those covered during weekly meetings. I encourage you to write a paper that will help you for the introduction/discussion of your thesis/dissertation. I am happy to meet with you anytime during the first half of the semester to discuss your paper topic.

*Final paper*

**You will receive feedback on your midterm paper.** You will be asked to strengthen and lengthen your midterm paper to turn in at the end of the semester. Your grade will be determined by the improvement and revision of this version compared to the midterm. I am happy to meet with you anytime during the second half of the semester to discuss the revisions and specifics.

**NOTE:** Instructor reserves the right to modify aspects of the course (e.g., readings) during the semester to better serve the needs of the students.

**Weekly Schedule**

**January 21st**

**Introductory Material**

- Philosophical issues related to Cognitive and Affective Psychology
- Brief history of major figures to contextualize philosophical issues
- Definitions and semantic groundwork
- Divvying up readings and other housekeeping items

**January 28th**

**On the Relationship Between Cognition and Emotion**


*Optional Reading*


February 4th

**Foundational Theories of Emotion**


** Optional Reading**


February 11th

**Thought and Computation**


*Optional Readings*


February 18th

**Embodiment and Embeddedness in Cognition and Emotion**


February 25th

**Social Cognition and Language**


*Optional Reading*


*Finalize paper topic*

March 4th

**Discrete, Dimensional, and Cultural Conceptualizations of Emotion**


*Optional Reading*

March 11th  
**Cognitive Flexibility and Executive Function**


*Optional Reading*


March 18th  
*Spring break—No Class*

March 25th  
**Decision Making, Impulsivity, and Emotion**


*Optional Readings*


*Midterm paper due in class*

April 1st  
**Memory and Forgetting**


*Optional Reading*


April 8th

**Emotional Intelligence and Affective Regulation**


*Optional Reading*


April 15th

**Cognitive Appraisal and Reappraisal**


*Optional Reading*

April 22nd

**Personality, Experience, and Expression**


*Optional Reading*


April 29th

**Temporal Dynamics of Cognition and Emotion**


*Optional Reading*


May 9th

* Final Paper due*