Syllabus
Foundations of Cognitive/Affective Psychology (18:820:505)

Instructor: Nancy S. Fagley, Ph.D.
Office hours: 4:00-5:00 Thursdays and by appointment
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Course Description:

Introductory overview of topics in cognition and emotion. Includes theories emotion, information processing, intuition, emotion and rationality, language and thought, comprehension, memory, the interaction of affect and cognition, heuristics, and decision making.

Grades:

Grades will be based on (1) a 5-page paper (33%), (2a) written discussion questions—one question per session, due at the beginning of each session—based on the readings for that session and (2b) facilitating class discussion for one session (33%), and (3) a take-home exam based on the readings (33%). Because discussion is a key part of the course, attendance is required. Missing more than one class will lower one's final grade by one-third of a letter grade (e.g., from an A- to a B+, or from B+ to a B). Topics for the paper need to be approved by the instructor in advance. Papers are due June 17. Late papers will be explicitly penalized.
Week 1
May 27  Introductions; Discovering Psychology: Cognitive Psychology.

May 29  Effects of Context & Prior Knowledge on Understanding; Language and Thought
Trabasso: Importance of Context in Understanding Discourse
Garnham & Oakhill (1994) Language and Thought

Week 2
June 3  Two Modes of Processing: Cognitive/Analytical and Experiential/Intuitive
Epstein et al. (1996). Individ. Diff. in Intuitive vs. Analytical Thinking Styles
Supplemental: Pacini (1998) Depressive Realism from the perspective of CEST

June 5  Memory
Redelmeier & Kahneman (1996) Patients’ memories of painful medical treatments: real-
time and retrospective evaluations of two minimally invasive procedures. Pain, 66, 3-8.
Marsh (2007) Retelling is Not Recalling
Levine & Safer (2002). Sources of Bias in Memory for Emotion

Week 3
June 10 Theory of Emotion; Perceiving Emotion; Emotion and Memory
Fredrickson (1998). What Good are Positive Emotions?
Elfenbein (2003). Universals and Cultural Differences in Recog Emotions

Informal Reasoning

June 12 The Interaction of Affect and Cognition
Judgment
Neuroscience Perspective.
Supplemental: Adolphs & Damasio. The Interaction of Affect & Cognition: A
Neurobiological Perspective

Week 4
June 17 Judgment: Heuristics and Biases
Dumont (1993). Heuristics in Clinical Problem Formulation

Papers Due

June 19 Hindsight Bias and Confronting Bias in Oneself
Arkes (1988). Eliminating Hindsight Bias
Ehrlinger (2005). Peering into the Bias Blind Spot

Exam Due