



Course Syllabus

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Course Information

Course Description

This course introduces students to concepts of Cognitive Psychology and offers them new perspectives on how to observe and understand the interaction between thoughts and behaviors in their daily lives. Students will evaluate the tendencies and correlations between what a person "thinks" and what that person "does" through observation and interpretation of their own experiences in the environments they interact in daily. A report will be generated for each competence that will include an analysis of the student's own cognitive behavioral tendencies as well as those of others in their daily environments.

The five competencies or "topic areas" that students have to choose from in the course provide the environments for students to observe, such as: the community in H-1-I; within organizations H-2-C; in personal relationships in H-3-A; the use of communications technology in S-3-X; and their careers and work lives in F-X.

Course Learning Goals

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the history and development of the field of Cognitive Psychology.
- Understand social and cultural factors of learning and processing knowledge.
- Identify how the brain processes a variety of different stimuli and produces output.
- Maximize the use of memory based on an understanding of memory models.
- Evaluate communication outcomes and processes based on the use of language.
- Reflect on decision-making using problem solving and reasoning techniques.
- Monitor and evaluate your own thoughts and behaviors to maximize your effectiveness in the different

environments and settings you engage in daily.

- Develop a plan for self-improvement based on an analysis of your own cognitive and behavioral tendencies.
- Apply your understanding of how and why people behave in different ways to better understand the behaviors of those you encounter on a daily basis.

Course Resources

1. Fundamentals of Cognition, by Michael W. Eysenck, (2006), Psychology Press, ISBN: 1-84169-374-X. (softcover)
2. Various Internet Resources as found on course website.

Books can be ordered from MBS Direct online at <http://www.mbsdirect.net/Index.html>.

Course Competencies

In this course, you will develop the following competencies:

Competence	Statement
H-1-I	Can understand change methodology, plan change within a community, and assess its likely impact.
H-2-C	Can identify an organizational problem and design a plan for change based on an understanding of change theories or models.
H-3-A	Can use two or more theories of human psychology to understand and solve problems.
S-3-X	Can analyze how the use of a particular mode of communications technology can influence the way people interact with each other.
FX	Can assess how one's own thought patterns influence that person's career choices and behavior in the workplace.

Competence Demonstration

You will demonstrate competence through participation in the discussion forum and development of your written assignments. The discussion that takes place during each module will be the primary means for you to demonstrate the learning that you are achieving through your reading assignments and personal observations during the quarter. You will be expected to share questions, insights, clarifications and observations and to report on the environments you are observing and share examples of what you plan to include in your final projects.

You will complete three written assignments in the course. The first assignment, a self-assessment exercise, will not relate to the specific competencies you are taking in the course, but rather will be a general assessment of your cognitive abilities. The second and third assignments will be related to the specific competencies you are taking in the course. You will need to submit the second and third assignments for each competence you are taking in the course. The third assignment is related to the reading assignments each week and you should be able to write one section of the final project each week, therefore leaving you less work to do at the end of the quarter.

Course Structure

The basic structure of the learning in this course will involve the following activities:

- Reading the assigned texts and developing an understanding of how our minds process information and its relationship to behavior.
- Choosing a specific environment of which you are a member to observe how people interact (or behave) in that setting for each competence.
- Completing a preliminary assessment of your own cognitive abilities and the environments you have chosen to observe.
- Sharing experiences and insights with fellow students through the online discussion forums regarding the reading assignments and your personal observations of the thought processes and behaviors you are observing in your environments.
- Preparing a report and action plan for each competence taken in the course.

To view the course schedule, click on the **Schedule** link on the left-hand navigation bar. This page contains the most recently updated listing of the topics and assignments due for each week of the course.

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Assesment

Assessment of Learning

Assessment Criteria

Each competence taken in the course will be assessed a letter grade. There are several aspects of your learning that you will use to demonstrate competence. These include what you have learned through your reading assignments; your observations of yourself and the competence environments you will assess; the integration of theories and concepts addressed in the course to your final projects; and, your reflections and contributions to the class discussion. The following criteria will be used to assess your competence in the course in equal portions of each item.

1. Quality of contributions to weekly discussion forums:
 - o Relevance to the topic addressed.
 - o Accuracy of information and use of theory.
 - o Conciseness of explanations and focus on main points.
 - o Evidence cited to substantiate ideas.
 - o Timeliness of submitting messages.
2. Quality of responses to other students in discussion forums:
 - o Demonstrates respect for the ideas and input of others.
 - o Acknowledges and offers feedback to others.
 - o Stays on track with discussion objectives.
 - o Contributes helpful and insightful ideas.
 - o Offers questions that challenge and engage others.
3. Quality of Assignments One and Two due at the end of Module Two:
 - o Submits assignments by the assigned due date.
 - o Addresses the assignment according to directions.
 - o Demonstrates an appropriate level of reflection.
 - o Addresses assignment in appropriate level of detail.
 - o Demonstrates understanding of learning objectives.
4. Quality of Assignment Three: Competence Environmental Final Project:
 - o Addresses the assignment according to directions.
 - o Describes relevant observations of competence environments.
 - o Integrates and references theories and concepts from course texts accurately.
 - o Incorporates own ideas, theories and perspectives to assignment.
 - o Presents project with attention to aesthetics, clarity and grammatical acuity.

Course Grading Scale

Grades will be assessed on a point system that are earned for completing the tasks listed below. Points assigned for Discussion Forum Participation and Assignment One will apply toward both competencies if you are taking the course for two competencies. However, the points assigned to Assignment Two and Assignment Three will be applied separately to your competence grades, as these assignments need to be completed for each competence. Keep in mind that you need to achieve a C- or better to be able to count the competence toward your graduation requirements in the SNL program.

150 Points Total

50 Points

Discussion Forum Participation (5 points per module)

25 Points	Assignment One: Cognitive Self-Assessment
25 Points	Assignment Two: Competence Environmental Assessment
50 Points	Assignment Three: Competence Environmental Final Report

150 Points Total	
135 Points = A	90%
130 Points = A-	87%
125 Points = B+	83%
120 Points = B	80%
115 Points = B-	77%
110 Points = C+	73%
105 Points = C	70%
100 Points = C-	66%
95 Points = D+	63%
90 Points = D	60%
85 Points = D-	57%
80 Points = F	53%

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Policies

Academic Integrity

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/homehandbook.html> for further details.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major form of academic dishonesty involving the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:

- The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgement that it is someone else's.
- Copying of any source in whole or part with only minor changes in wording or syntax, even with acknowledgement.
- Submitting as one's own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment that has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency.
- The paraphrasing of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgement.

Plagiarism, like other forms of academic dishonesty, is always a serious matter. If an instructor finds that a student has plagiarized, the appropriate penalty is at the instructor's discretion.

Disability Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis. The Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) determines appropriate accommodations through consultation with the student. For certain learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorders, the Productive Learning Strategies Program (PLuS) determines the appropriate accommodations. See the instructor for more information or call OSD at 773-325-7290 (phone) or 773-325-7296 (TTY); or call PLuS at 773-325-1677.

Incomplete Grades

The intent of the Incomplete grade is to allow students extra time to complete their final assignments. This need arises because, in the closing weeks of the course, they have an event of significant magnitude that adversely affects their ability to complete the course, e.g. serious illness, death in the family, overseas deployment, or natural disaster.

You must request an incomplete grade in writing two weeks before the end of the quarter. Incomplete grades will be considered only after you have satisfactorily completed at least 75 percent of the coursework, and you have such an unexpected, uncontrollable event that prevents you from completing your course. Do not assume that you will qualify for an incomplete. Students who are failing the course at the point where they request an incomplete will not receive one, nor will they be granted after the end of the quarter. Incomplete grades are given at the discretion of the instructor.

If you do receive permission from the instructor to take an incomplete in the course, you will be required to complete a contract with the instructor, specifying how you will finish the missing work within the next two quarters (excluding summer). Incompletes not finished by the end of the second quarter (excluding summer) will automatically become an F grade on your transcript.

Instructors may not change incomplete grades after the end of the grace period without the permission of a college-based Exceptions Committee.

NOTE: In the case of a student who has applied for graduation and who has been approved for an Incomplete in his or her final term, the incomplete must be resolved within the four week grace period before final degree certification.

Protection of Human Subjects

For more information see: <http://research.depaul.edu/>

Demonstrating the acquisition of competences in this course can involve “interactions”—interviewing and or observing other people—discussing those interviews or observations with other class members and writing them up in one or more final report(s).

As such, these activities qualify as “research” with “human subjects” and are subject to University and Federal guidelines. Because it takes place in the context of this course, your research is exempt from approval by the School for New Learning’s Local Review Board only under the following conditions:

1. The information you collect is EXCLUSIVELY for the purpose of classroom discussion and will NOT be used after the term is over. If there is any possibility that you will EVER use it in further research or for publication, you must obtain approval from the Local Review Board before you begin.
2. You assess and ensure that no “harm”—physical, mental, or social—does or could result from either your interviews and/or observations or your discussion and/or reports.
3. The privacy and confidentiality of those that you interview or observe must be protected. Unless you receive specific permission, in writing, from the person(s) you interview or observe, please change their names, and make sure that their identity cannot be readily ascertained from the information you provide.
 - a. If you want to use real names and relationships, they must sign an “informed consent” document. For information on creating an “informed consent document” see, for example, <http://www.research.umn.edu/consent/>

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Course Expectations

Time Management and Attendance

SNL's online courses are **not** self-paced and require a regular time commitment EACH week throughout the quarter.

You are required to log in to your course at least **FOUR** times a week so that you can participate in the ongoing course discussions.

Online courses are no less time consuming than "face to face" courses. You will have to dedicate some time every day or at least every second day to your studies. A typical four credit hour "face to face" course at SNL involves three hours of classroom meeting per week, plus at least three to six hours of study and homework per week.

This course will require at least the same time commitment, but your learning activities will be spread out through the week. If you have any problems with your technology, or if you need to improve your reading or writing skills, it may take even longer.

The instructor should be notified if your life events do not allow you to participate in the course and the online discussions for more than one week. This is particularly important when there are group discussions or you are working as part of a team.

If you find yourself getting behind, please contact your course instructor immediately.

Your Instructor's Role

Your instructor's role in this course is that of a discussion instructor and learning advisor. It is not their responsibility to make sure you log in regularly and submit your assignments. As instructor, s/he will read all postings to the general discussion forums on a daily basis but may not choose to respond to each posting. You will receive feedback to assignments.

The instructor may choose to designate "office hours" when s/he will be online and available and will immediately respond to questions. Depending on the instructor, this response may be by e-mail, instant messenger or telephone. Otherwise, you will generally receive a response to emailed or posted queries within 48 hours.

Your Role as a Student

As an online student, you will be taking a proactive approach to your learning. As the course instructor's role is that of a learning guide, your role is that of the leader in your own learning.

You will be managing your own time so that you can complete the readings, activities and assignments for the course, and you will also be expected to take a more active role in peer learning.

You will learn with and from your classmates in the online discussions and group assignments, sharing information and resources and posting your ideas and critiquing and expanding on the ideas of others in a collegial fashion. You are encouraged to bring your questions to the online discussions and respond to each other—do not always wait for the instructor to answer questions.

If events arise in your life that will prevent your attendance in class for one week or more, it is your responsibility to make sure that your instructor is advised at the first possible opportunity. You, or a friend or family member can do that by email, postal mail or phone. Someone could also send a note to snlonline@depaul.edu, or call either of the CDE contact numbers listed on page 1 of this guide. This will allow your instructor to assist you to make up missing work. If these events occur early in the quarter and you wait until the end of the quarter before informing your instructor, do not expect to receive an Incomplete.

Final Note

Participating in SNL courses can be an enriching, rewarding experience, and a chance to share ideas in a safe environment.

Some difficulties at the beginning of an online course are quite normal; solving them is part of every distance learning experience.

Enjoy your journey into lifelong learning!

Credits:

This course was designed and produced by Mr. Kenn Skorupa, Dr. Anna Maria Wegierek, and staff at the Center for Distance Education of the School for New Learning of DePaul University.

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