# Psychology
# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

# PSY270H1F L9902– Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

## Course Delivery

This is an online, asynchronous course. Lectures will be given as a series of short videos totaling 2-3 hours/ week posted on Quercus. Students will have the opportunity for synchronous online office hours to ask questions and clarifications about lecture content. Students are expected to complete online homework via Top Hat each week.

Tests and the final assessment will be time-limited and administered as Quercus quizzes.

**University of Toronto** tech requirements for online learning

## Contact Information

**Course Instructor:**
**Dr. Christine Burton**
email: christine.burton@utoronto.ca

**Office hours via Zoom:**
Sign-up for office hours required at
https://calendly.com/christine-burton/office-hour

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 3 - 4 pm
Tuesdays 9 - 10 am
Thursdays 11 am - 12 pm

**Teaching Assistants:**
Anisha Khosla: anisha.khosla@mail.utoronto.ca
Corey Loo: corey.loo@mail.utoronto.ca
Cory McKenzie: cory.mckenzie@mail.utoronto.ca

The TAs will be available to meet virtually with students after the distribution of graded tests and assignments.

The TAs will also hold dedicated office hours to answer questions you have about the written assignments before they are due.

## Course Description

Cognitive psychology is the study of the building blocks of how we think and reason. We need to be able to pay attention, create mental representations, remember information, manipulate knowledge and express thoughts. Thus, in this course we will discuss the fundamentals of attention, memory, problem solving, decision making and language.

## Course Objective

My goal for this course is to familiarize you with the leading theories in cognitive psychology so that you are able to discuss the fundamental topics in the field, create hypotheses using this knowledge and apply this to everyday situations. Assigned textbook readings explain important concepts and will help lay a foundation on which you can build your knowledge. In lectures we will elaborate on the material in the text and highlight connections between the various topics, experiments that have been conducted in the area, and real-life situations.

Experimentation is an important part of cognitive psychology so I have included assignments specifically designed to let you participate in cognitive psychology research and use your new knowledge.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:
- Describe the major terms, concepts and theories in cognitive psychology
- Understand how unconscious cognitive processes influence our everyday behaviour
- Understand how the historical development of cognitive psychology has shaped the questions researchers in cognitive psychology ask today
- Explain how empirical findings can support or refute psychological theories
- Identify key variables in empirical research and infer evidence-based conclusions

- Analyse and critique published research in cognitive psychology
- Communicate scientific data in the form of written reports

## Reading Material

**Cognitive Psychology by Elan Barenholtz et al**. This textbook is only available through the Top Hat platform. This allows significant savings for students compared to some of the other frequently used Cognition textbooks, and integration of all course materials into one platform.

In addition to the Top Hat textbook, we will be using Top Hat for participation this term and to facilitate the asynchronous lab activities.

There are different ways that you can purchase the textbook and Top Hat subscription.
1. **If you already have an active Top Hat subscription**, you will only need to purchase the textbook. You can do this at the U of T online bookstore or through Top Hat after you have added our class to your account. You will need to use our class Join Code (available on Quercus) to add the course before you can add the textbook
2. **If you do not have an active Top Hat subscription,** you will need to purchase both a subscription and the textbook. You have the option of buying either a 4-month or 12-month subscription. You can everything through the U of T bookstore, or you can follow the instructions you get in an email invitation you will receive from Top Hat. Both options will allow you to purchase the Top Hat subscription and textbook separately. You do NOT need to buy them at the bookstore AND from Top Hat.

Use this link to purchase the Top Hat subscription and/or the textbook from the U of T bookstore: https://www.campusebookstore.com/integration/AccessCodes/default.aspx?bookseller_id=96&Course=STG+PSY270+COGNITIVE+PSYCHOLOGY&frame=YES&t=permalink

## Course Evaluation

| Midterm test | Week of October 18 (date TBD)  120 minutes | 28% | Lab reports | November 3 and December 8 | 2 @ 15% each = 30% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Final Assessment test | TBD: December 10-21  120 minutes | 36% | Top Hat lab participation | Ongoing | 3% |
| Top Hat Homework | Ongoing | 3% | Bonus PsynUp experiment participation | Ongoing | 1% |

## Tests

The midterm test and final assessment will be administered as Quercus quizzes. You will have 2 hours to complete the term test and final assessment but they will be open for 24-hour windows so you can select when you would like to write them. The tests will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final assessment will be cumulative and will cover all material from the course.

## Assignments

I intend the assignments to give you an opportunity to participate in both classic and recent cognitive psychology experiments and encourage you to use the information in the course to think beyond the course material. You will participate in replications of classic cognitive psychology experiments using Top Hat after listening to the posted lecture material. The point of the assignments is to give you hands on experience both participating in experiments and acting as an experimenter. I will perform simple statistical analyses based on the class data and provide it to you after everyone

has participated. You will then be expected to write lab reports based on the class data from 2 of the experiments we will complete throughout the term. Detailed instructions about the lab reports are available on Quercus.

**Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (https://uoft.me/pdt-faq)**

You may opt out of using the University's plagiarism detection tool to submit your course work, in which case alternative arrangements can be made to support your written work (e.g. providing research notes, etc.). If you intend to opt out, please **inform your Instructor by Monday, September 27** so alternate arrangements can be made.

## Top Hat Participation

There are 2 types of Top Hat participation in this course.

The first is related to the experiment participation described above related to the lab report assignments. There are 6 experiments to participate in throughout the term with each experiment participation worth 0.5%. In order to receive the full 3% participation, you will need to participate in at 5 of 6 experiments (2.5% rounded up).

The second participation component requires you to answer "homework" questions posted on Top Hat after each lecture. Research has demonstrated that a good way to learn material is to be tested on it. With that goal in mind, these homework questions are based on lecture and textbook material and will help as practice questions for the test and exam. Your score will be calculated as the total number of correct answers out of all questions multiplied by 3% (for example, if you get 75 questions correct out of 100 questions asked throughout the term, you score is 2.25 points). The homework questions will be due before the formal assessments (midterm test and exam).

## Bonus Experiment Participation

You have the opportunity to receive 1% bonus credit by participating in a psychology experiment in the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab. All participation will be ONLINE only. Participating in an experiment is an excellent way to experience how research is conducted in psychology and it is vital to the ongoing research in the field. To sign up for an experiment go to https://utsg-ferberlab.sona-systems.com/. Detailed instructions about how to register can be found on Quercus. If you do not want to participate in an experiment there is still an opportunity for you to receive a bonus point. Please email your instructor for instructions about an alternate assignment.

## Course Webpage

**The website associated with this course is accessible via http://q.utoronto.ca**
**Note:** You don't need to create a new login for Canvas; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to:
https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Canvas. If you have any general questions regarding Canvas, please visit the following help site:
https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/faculty/canvas

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES   **PLEASE READ**

## Email

The main source of communication in the course will be email. Please include the course number (PSY270) in the subject line in all your emails about the course. **Please avoid sending me messages directly from Quercus/Canvas.** These messages always end up in my "other" folder so I may not get to them quickly.

**Make sure you check your notification settings in Quercus to ensure you will receive email and announcement notifications**

## Requests for Re-grading

Any requests to re-grade tests or experiment reports should be made in a timely fashion. Requests to re-grade term tests must be made before the next scheduled test or exam.  Requests to re-grade experiment reports must be made within 1 week of the return of the graded report. **Please direct all requests for re-grading directly to the TA who marked your work.** If you are dissatisfied after meeting with the TA you may submit your work to the instructor. Keep in mind that if you submit your work to be re-graded, your grade could go up or down. This policy applies to work submitted to the instructor or the TAs.

## Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request special consideration from the instructor.

If you missed your test/assignment deadline for a reason connected to your registered disability, please be advised that the department will accept documentation supplied by Accessibility Services.

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me. It is also a very good idea to speak with an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can support you in requesting extensions or accommodations, and importantly, connect you with other resources on campus for help with your situation.

If your request if approved, you will have the opportunity to write a make up test within 1 week of the missed test. If you miss the make-up test and can provide documentation to support your request, the weight of the missed test will be redistributed to the final assessment.

**Supporting Documentation**

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation.  However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

For extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through your College Registrar's office

## Penalties for Lateness

The penalty for lateness is 5% per calendar day.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request directly to the Instructor for the period up to and including the last day of the final assessment period.

*Any term work that will be handed in **after** the final assessment period is subject to a petition for extension of term work. This petition should be filed with the student's College Registrar's Office.*

## Academic Resources

## Accessibility Needs:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and

instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will then assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

## Writing:

As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to write well.  The university provides its students with a number of resources to help them achieve this.  For more information on campus writing centres and writing courses, please visit http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/.

## Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer:

***Notice of video recording and sharing (Download permissible; re-use prohibited)***
Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor.

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. Course materials such as PowerPoint slides and lecture recordings are made available to you for your own study purposes. These materials cannot be shared outside of the class or "published" in any way. Posting recordings or slides to other websites without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement.  As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.  The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (**www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm**) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.  If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see **www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html**).

## Course Outline

I will post material on Mondays for each week. You can watch the videos at your own pace, however, I encourage you try your best to stick to a regular schedule. The official start of this class is September 13, but you are welcome to start early!

All due dates (with the exception of the Top Hat homework questions) will be on Wednesdays at 11:59 pm EST (see schedule below). The first half of Top Hat homework questions will be due at 9 am EST the morning of the midterm test. The second half will be due at 9 am EST the morning of the final assessment.

The midterm test will be during the week of October 18. I will hold a class vote to determine the preferred day for the test.

| Date | Topic | Reading | Assignments due |
|---|---|---|---|
| Week of September 13 | Introduction, themes and research methods | Chapters 1, 2, and 3 | |
| Week of September 20 | Perception | Chapter 4 | |
| Week of September 27 | Attention | Chapter 5 | Experiment 1 participation due Sept. 29 |
| Week of October 4 | Short-term storage | Chapter 6 | Experiment 2 participation due Oct. 6 |
| Week of October 11 | Long-term memory: Systems and processes | Chapter 7 | Experiment 3 participation due Oct. 13 |
| Week of October 18 | **Midterm test** | | Date TBA; first half of Top Hat homework questions due this week (date TBA) |
| Week of October 25 | Long-term memory in practice | Chapter 8 | Experiment 4 participation due Oct. 27 |
| Week of November 1 | Knowledge I (categories and concepts) | Chapter 9 | Lab report 1 due Nov. 3 |
| Week of November 8 | **Reading Week – No Class** | | |
| Week of November 15 | Knowledge II (imagery) | Chapter 9 | Experiment 5 participation due Nov. 17 |
| Week of November 22 | Decision making | Chapter 12 | Experiment 6 participation due Nov. 24 |
| Week of November 20 | Language | Chapter 10 | |
| Week of December 6 | Problem Solving | Chapter 10 | Lab report 2 due December 8 |

*Please note that the content of chapter 3 (The Brain) will not explicitly be covered, however, we will refer to some brain areas and functions throughout the course so it is your responsibility to ensure you are familiar with the basic ideas covered in the chapter. You should read the chapter and complete the Top Hat homework questions.