PSY 246
Cognitive Processes I
S1 Day 2016
Department of Psychology

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General Information
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Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes

1. By the end of this unit students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of research findings and theories about foundational aspects of cognitive processes
2. By the end of this unit students will acquire skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
3. By the end of this unit students will acquire an understanding of limits of human cognition
General Assessment Information

General

- The due dates of Assignment, Midsemester test, and the Final exam are fixed. You must sit the Midsemester test on the specified date.
- With the exception of Research Participation, if you are unable to meet the assessment requirement by the due date (e.g., not be able to sit the exam, or complete the assignment) due to a serious and unavoidable cause, you may submit a Disruption to studies notification to seek an extension to the assignment or to sit a supplementary exam. This needs to be submitted along with supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificate) through https://ask.mq.edu.au/ within 5 days of the commencement of the disruption.
- Your request will be assessed by the Faculty Student Office.

Assignment Extension

- For the assignment, the maximum extension given is 1 week. Late submission without an extension will incur a late penalty of 5% of the total mark for the assignment per day (i.e., 1% per day of the total assessment.) No submission will be accepted once the marks are released and feedback is given.
- For detail of the Disruption to Studies Policy, see the link under Policies and Procedures below.

Supplementary exam

- The supplementary midsemester test is scheduled for April 27, 2016.
- The supplementary exams for the undergraduate psychology units in Semester 1 are scheduled on July 14 and 15, 2016.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 24, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midsemester test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 6, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>throughout semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Session 1 examination period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/56870/unit_guide/print
Unit guide PSY 246 Cognitive Processes I

Assignment
Due: March 24, 2016
Weighting: 15%

Short answer questions based on a set journal article.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• By the end of this unit students will acquire skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

Midsemester test
Due: April 6, 2016
Weighting: 20%

Multiple choice questions based on the lecture and tutorial materials covered up to and including Week 5.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• By the end of this unit students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of research findings and theories about foundational aspects of cognitive processes

Research participation
Due: throughout semester
Weighting: 5%

Participate in cognition experiments (max. 2.5 hours, 30 minutes = 1%)

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• By the end of this unit students will acquire an understanding of limits of human cognition

Final examination
Due: Session 1 examination period.
Weighting: 60%

Multiple choice and short essay questions based on the lecture and tutorial materials for the whole semester

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this unit students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of research findings and theories about foundational aspects of cognitive processes

Delivery and Resources
Lectures are held weekly starting on Week 1 on Wednesdays 4-6 pm in the Lotus Theatre. Lecture recordings are available via Echo360/iLearn.

Practicals (= tutorials) are 1 hour duration and held fortnightly starting on Week 2 (or Week 3, depending on class).

You will need access to the internet, for accessing the unit homepage, lecture recordings (Echo360), online submission of assignment, communication with staff (Dialogue) and fellow students (Discussion forum).
Unit Schedule
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Practical topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; research methods in cognition</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Attention</td>
<td>Stroop effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Working memory</td>
<td>Stroop effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Episodic memory</td>
<td>Phonological similarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Visual attention and object recognition (TC)</td>
<td>Phonological similarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Midsemester test</td>
<td>Levels of processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Semantic memory</td>
<td>Levels of processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Concepts and categories</td>
<td>Change detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Word recognition and reading</td>
<td>Change detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Language production (WT)</td>
<td>Exam essay writing practice</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Thinking and reasoning (JB)</td>
<td>Exam essay writing practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Cognitive neuropsychology (TS)</td>
<td>Lexical decision</td>
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Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- By the end of this unit students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of research findings and theories about foundational aspects of cognitive processes
- By the end of this unit students will acquire skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

**Assessment tasks**

- Assignment
- Midsemester test
- Final examination

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to
critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- By the end of this unit students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of research findings and theories about foundational aspects of cognitive processes
- By the end of this unit students will acquire skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

**Assessment tasks**

- Assignment
- Final examination

**Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- By the end of this unit students will acquire skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- By the end of this unit students will acquire an understanding of limits of human cognition

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess,
write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- By the end of this unit students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of research findings and theories about foundational aspects of cognitive processes
- By the end of this unit students will acquire skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

**Assessment tasks**

- Assignment
- Final examination

**Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- By the end of this unit students will acquire an understanding of limits of human cognition

**Assessment task**

- Research participation