



# PSY 246

## Cognitive Processes I

S1 Day 2014

*Psychology*

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# General Information

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

[PSYC104(P) and PSYC105(P)] or [(STAT122(P) or STAT170(P) or STAT171(P) or PSY122(P)) and (PSY104(P) or PSYC104(P)) and (PSY105(P) or PSYC105(P))] or admission to GDipPsych

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces major topics of cognition including mechanisms of visual and auditory attention, varieties of short and long term memory, language processes such as reading and written word recognition, and storage and retrieval of knowledge of concepts and reasoning. We cannot attend to everything that impinges on the senses so we select and attend only to part of the available input. Selected information must be encoded, used, stored and retrieved. Although the main focus of the unit is on normal adult cognition, disorders of cognitive processes are also examined and these include acquired dyslexias and various forms of memory impairments. The unit is taught by means of lectures and practical classes. The latter demonstrate phenomena and research findings from various areas of cognition.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes

Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

An understanding of limits on human cognition

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Assignment</u>	15%	March 28, 2014
<u>Mid-semester test</u>	20%	April 8, 2014
<u>Research participation</u>	5%	Throughout Semester 1
<u>Final Exam</u>	60%	Session 1 examination period

### Assignment

Due: **March 28, 2014**

Weighting: **15%**

4 questions are based on a set reading (a journal article). Both the questions and the set reading will be specified in iLearn PSY246 homepage. Each question requires a short answer within a specified word limit (usually < 200 words). Submission is electronic, via the Turnitin portal in the iLearn PSY246 homepage.

Late submission is not allowed, except where an extension is granted prior to the deadline. The submission portal will be open between March 24 - 5pm March 28, 2014.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

### Mid-semester test

Due: **April 8, 2014**

Weighting: **20%**

The test consists of 20 multiple choice questions based on topics covered between Week 1-5. Bring a pencil and eraser, as the answers are to be entered on computer-scanned answer sheet.

Attendance is compulsory and it is held in the usual lecture theatre at the lecture time on Week 6 - April 8, 2014. All students, including those who are registered as the iLearn mode and do not

normally attend the lectures, must attend the test at the specified time. No provision will be made for sitting at an alternative time.

To avoid congestion, half of the enrolled students (first half of the surnames in alphabetical order) sit the test during the first hour; and the other half of students sit in the second hour. The exact breakdown will be announced via iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

## Research participation

Due: **Throughout Semester 1**

Weighting: **5%**

Students participate in various cognition experiments, advertised via the Psychology Subject Pool (for PSY246). Maximum credit of 5% = 2.5 hours participation (or pro rata). All experiments require participation in person (not on-line participation). Most experiments will be held in the AHH Building.

The experiments cover a range of topics (e.g., word recognition, attention, memory, etc), methodologies and measures (behavioural, physiological) and will give students a first-hand experience in research conducted by experts. The researcher will provide you with brief notes on their project, as well as a reference to the relevant section in the textbook.

The procedure for signing up for experiments is via the Psychology Subject Pool, the same as in PSYC104 and 105, i.e., via <http://mq-psy.sona-systems.com/>, but make sure that you are signing up for PSY246 experiments. Students enrolled in PSY246 will have their student ID registered with the subject pool.; the first time you log in, set up a username, and an autogenerated password (which you can change to something more memorable) will be emailed. For questions related to the subject pool, and students who enrolled late and hence need to register their student ID for the PSY246 subject pool, please email the subject pool administrator at [psy\\_pool\\_admin@mq.edu.au](mailto:psy_pool_admin@mq.edu.au).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

## Final Exam

Due: **Session 1 examination period**

Weighting: **60%**

The final examination will contain essay questions and multiple choice questions based on topics covered throughout the semester.

There will be an essay writing/evaluation practice held during the practicals in Weeks 10-11. There are also sample questions posted under Assessment in the iLearn PSY246 homepage.

Multiple choice questions are similar to those in quizzes (available in iLearn PSY246 homepage) and the midsemester test.

The times and location of the final examination will be timetabled centrally, and will be announced later in the semester. The university examination period for Semester 1 units in 2014 is June 16-July 4. The draft exam timetable will be available approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. See [timetables.mq.edu.au](http://timetables.mq.edu.au).

The university policy does not allow setting of early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students must be available to sit the exam during the examinations period. Any student missing the final exam needs to be available for the supplementary exam set at a specified date by the Faculty of Human Sciences (July 17 and 18 in 2014).

The only exception to not sitting the exam at the designated time during the university's examination period is because of serious and unavoidable disruption. In these cases you may wish to apply for Special Consideration. Refer to the university policy on applying for Special Consideration (see section on Policies and Procedures).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

## Delivery and Resources

Lectures are held weekly, on **Tuesdays 2-4 pm** in the **Macquarie Theatre**, during Week 1-13. Lecture recordings become available immediately after the live lecture, via Echo360. Link to Echo360 will be on the iLearn PSY246 homepage.

Practical (= tutorial) classes are held in **C4A335** and use laboratory software (CogLab) on Mac computers. There is a limit of 25 students per class, due to the number of computers available. Students attend one tutorial class per fortnight, at the allocated time, held during Week 2-13 (i.e., a total of 6 tutorial sessions).

### TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

You will need access to the internet. The **unit's homepage** can be found at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

Consult the unit homepage for learning resources (quizzes, sample exam questions, lecture powerpoint slides, etc), communication with staff (Dialogue) and fellow students (Discussion

forum) and link to lecture recordings (Echo360). Assignment submission is also online, via the unit homepage.

The practicals will use the Coglab software to run cognition experiments.

## TEXTBOOK

Eysenck, M. & Keane, M.T. (2010) **Cognitive psychology**: A student's handbook, 6th Edition, Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

## Unit Schedule

Lectures are held weekly, on **Tuesdays 2-4 pm** in the **Macquarie Theatre**, during Week 1-13. Lecture recordings become available immediately after the live lecture, via Echo360. Link to Echo360 will be on the iLearn PSY246 homepage.

Practical (= tutorial) classes are held in **C4A335** and use laboratory software (CogLab) on Mac computers. There is a limit of 25 students per class, due to the number of computers available. Students attend one tutorial class per fortnight, at the allocated time, held during Week 2-13 (i.e., a total of 6 tutorial sessions).

### UNIT SCHEDULE

Lectures will be given by the unit convenor, and by the guest lecturers. (TC = Dr Tom Carlson, BB = Dr Britta Biedermann, JB = Dr Jon Brock, AC = Dr Anne Castles)

Week	beginning	Lecture topic	Practical topic
1	March 3	Introduction & research methods in cognition	no class
2	March 10	Attention	Stroop effect
3	March 17	Working memory	Stroop effect
4	March 24	Episodic memory	Phonological similarity
5	March 31	Visual attention and object recognition (TC)	Phonological similarity
6	April 7	Midsemester test	Levels of processing
	April 12-27	Recess	
7	April 28	Semantic memory	Levels of processing
8	May 5	Concepts and categories	Change detection
9	May 12	Word recognition and reading	Change detection
10	May 19	Language production (BB)	Exam essay writing practice
11	May 26	Thinking and reasoning (JB)	Exam essay writing practice
12	June 2	Cognitive neuropsychology (AC)	Lexical decision



13	June 9	Revision	Lexical decision
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## Policies and Procedures

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:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

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/)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <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](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

### 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 outcomes

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

## Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

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

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

## 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

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

## 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 outcomes

- Knowledge of research findings and theories about the basic areas of cognitive processes
- Skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition
- An understanding of limits on human cognition

## Communication with students

***It is University policy that the University issued email account will be used for official University communication. All students are required to access their University account frequently.***

The lecturer will answer your questions about the content of the lecture topic. Your practical tutor will answer questions about the tutorials. The staff in the Faculty of Human Sciences Student Services Centre (FHSSSC) will assist you with questions related to the administration of the unit. The FHSSSC is located in the ground floor of C3A, and the opening hours are Mon-Fri 9-5, Ph 9850 9898. For email go to <https://ask.mq.edu.au>.