



# PSYX246

## Cognitive Processes I

S1 OUA 2019

*Department of Psychology*

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## General Information

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Prerequisites

(PSYX104 and PSYX105) or (PSYC104 and PSYC105)

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, we will also examine disorders of cognition including acquired dyslexias and various forms of memory impairments. You will learn to approach research findings critically, and in the practical classes you will gain hands-on experience of classic cognitive phenomena.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/>

## Learning Outcomes

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

By the end of this unit, student 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

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, mid-session test, and the Final exam are fixed.
- **Fit to Sit Model:** Students who sit an exam and/or in-class test or otherwise submit an assessment, declare themselves fit to do so and will not be eligible to apply for special consideration unless there is evidence that (a) they were unfit to make reasonable judgement on their fitness to undertake the assessment, due to mental illness or other exceptional circumstances; or they were taken ill during the assessment (in the case of an examination or test), and this can be independently corroborated.
- For other general information about assessment, refer to the university policies (see below for the links to the university policies).

## Assignment extension

- Assignment submission is on-line, via the Turnitin link on the iLearn PSYX246 unit homepage.
- Assignment submitted past the due date will incur late penalty at the rate of 5% of the maximum mark for the assignment per day (i.e., 0.75% of total assessment mark per day).
- No submission will be accepted and a mark of 0 will be given for work submitted after the marks and feedback are released.
- If you are unable to submit the assignment by the due date, seek an extension BEFORE the due date via [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au), together with supporting documentation. The faculty student office will assess the extension request based on the supporting documentation. If the extension is granted, submit the approval notice together with the assignment or if already submitted, email it to the unit convenor.

## Mid-session test

- The mid-session test will be held on iLearn during Week 7 and will be timed to 20 minutes (i.e., students will have 20 minutes to complete the exam once they have begun).
- If you are unable to complete the exam, apply for special consideration BEFORE the due date via [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au), together with supporting documentation. The faculty student office will assess the extension request based on the supporting documentation. If special consideration is granted, email it to the unit convenor.

## Final examination

- The final examination will be scheduled by Open Universities Australia. See <https://www.open.edu.au/your-studies/getting-started/exams> for more information, including exam schedules.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Assignment</a>	15%	No	22/3/2019
<a href="#">Mid-session test</a>	20%	No	Week 7

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Research participation</a>	5%	No	throughout session
<a href="#">Final examination</a>	60%	No	Scheduled by OUA

## Assignment

Due: **22/3/2019**

Weighting: **15%**

Short-answer questions based on a set journal article. The target article and detailed instructions are described in the iLearn homepage.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- By the end of this unit, student 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

## Mid-session test

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Multiple choice/fill-in blank questions based on the lecture and tutorial materials up to and including Week 6.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- By the end of this unit, student 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

## Research participation

Due: **throughout session**

Weighting: **5%**

Students sign up for online research studies conducted at Macquarie University. Signup details are described in the iLearn homepage. Credit is given at the rate of 1 credit/mark for 30 minutes participation with the maximum of 5 credits/marks (i.e., a maximum of 2.5 hours).

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

## Final examination

Due: **Scheduled by OUA**

Weighting: **60%**

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- By the end of this unit, student 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

## Delivery and Resources

### Lectures and tutorials

- **Lectures** are held weekly starting on Session week 1 on Mondays 9-11, and are live streamed. Lecture recordings are available via Echo360/iLearn.
- You will need access to the internet, for accessing the iLearn **PSYX246 unit homepage**, lecture recordings (Echo360), and online submission of the assignment. Please refer to the iLearn PSYX246 unit homepage for updates.
- **Tutorials (= practicals)** will take approximately 1 hour to complete and will be completed as online activities via iLearn.

### Textbook

Eysenck, M.W. & Keane, M.T. (2015). Cognitive Psychology: A student's handbook. 7th Edition, Hove, UK: Psychology Press. (E-book version is also available.)

## Unit Schedule

Week	Week beginning	Lecture	2019 tutorial schedule
1	25-Feb	Intro & Research methods	Welcome
2	4-Mar	Working memory	Phonological Similarity (Working memory)
3	11-Mar	Attention	Revision quiz

4	18-Mar	Visual attention (KC) <b>ASSIGNMENT DUE THIS WEEK</b>	Stroop (Attention)
5	25-Mar	Episodic memory	Revision quiz
6	1-Apr	Semantic Memory	Levels of Processing (Episodic memory)
7	8-Apr	No lecture <b>MID-SESSION EXAM THIS WEEK</b>	Revision quiz
break	15-Apr	////////////////	////////////////
break	22-Apr	////////////////	////////////////
8	29-Apr	Concepts & Categories	Change Detection (Visual attention)
9	8-May	Word recognition & reading	Revision quiz
10	13-May	Thinking & Reasoning (SH)	Exam essay writing practice
11	20-May	Language Production (WT)	Revision quiz
12	27-May	Cognitive Neuropsychology (GS)	Lexical Decision (Semantic memory/Word Recognition)
13	3-Jun	Revision	Revision quiz

KC = Kim Curby; SH = Stephanie Howarth; WT = Bill (William) Thompson; GS = Greg Savage

## Policies and Procedures

### Late Submission - applies unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the unit guide

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

## Extension Request

### **Special Consideration Policy and Procedure** (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>)

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit [Ask MQ](#) and use your OneID to log in
2. Fill in your relevant details
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'Browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'Submit Form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

### **Outcome**

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

## OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

### **Withdrawal from a unit after the census date**

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to [the census date](#) (last day to withdraw). If you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the



census date - you might be able to [apply for Special Circumstances](#). If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can [apply online](#).

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to [apply directly to Macquarie University](#).

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## 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)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

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

## Graduate Capabilities

### 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 skills in critical evaluation of research on cognition

## 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 outcome

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

### Assessment tasks

- Assignment
- Research participation

## 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

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

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

## Assessment tasks

- Assignment
- Mid-session 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, student 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
- Mid-session test
- 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 outcomes

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

## Assessment tasks

- Mid-session test
- Research participation
- Final examination

## 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 outcome

- By the end of this unit, student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of research findings and theories about foundational aspects of cognitive processes

## Assessment tasks

- Assignment
- Mid-session test
- Final examination

## Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

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

## Assessment task

- Research participation

## Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

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

## OUA Student guide

Macquarie University's OUA student guide can be found here

<https://www.mq.edu.au/study/other-study-options/open-universities-australia/OUA-2019-Student-Guide-04122018.pdf>

This has all the MQ OUA-specific policies (info about studying online, extensions, exams, etc).