



COGS3050

Core Problems in Cognitive Science

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

School of Psychological Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor COGS3050

Professor Genevieve McArthur

genevieve.mcarthur@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

Weekly Q+A sessions (Thursdays) and via appointment

Head Tutor

Jasmine Spencer

jasmine.spencer@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

Tutorials (Thursdays and Fridays)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp including COGS2000 or COGS202

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The mind and the brain are said to be the final frontiers of science. These frontiers are also of great interest to industry, government, and NGOs (non-government organisations) who wish to harness the power of the mind and the brain to solve complex problems. This unit provides students with the opportunity to explore theories of how the mind and brain work, and how to apply that knowledge to solve critical issues and improve people's lives. A strong emphasis is placed on effective scientific communication, the consolidation of acquired knowledge and skills, and the deepening of one's understanding of cognitive science research through hands-on scientific activities.

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:

ULO1: Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human cognitive functions.

ULO2: Critically evaluate theories of human cognitive function.

ULO3: Evaluate experimental designs, analyses, and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.

ULO4: Demonstrate effective scientific communication.

ULO5: Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills.

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

Late submission of time sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to

submit an application for Special Consideration.

Special Consideration

If you are unable to complete an assessment task on or by the specified date due circumstances that are unexpected, unavoidable, significantly disruptive and beyond your control, you may apply for special consideration in accordance with the [special consideration policy](#). Applications for special consideration must be supported by appropriate evidence and submitted via ask.mq.edu.au.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Weekly online quizzes	10%	No	Weekly
Tutorial worksheets	15%	No	Fortnightly
Science communication for advanced readers	25%	No	Week 6
Science communication for functional readers	25%	No	Week 10
Science communication for non-readers	25%	No	Week 13

Weekly online quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Weekly online quizzes on lecture content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human cognitive functions.
- Critically evaluate theories of human cognitive function.
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses, and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills.

Tutorial worksheets

Assessment Type ¹: Lab report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Fortnightly**

Weighting: **15%**

Tutorial worksheets assessing content and activities covered during the tutorials.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human cognitive functions.
- Critically evaluate theories of human cognitive function.
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses, and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.

Science communication for advanced readers

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 6**

Weighting: **25%**

Written piece, similar to that found in *The Conversation*, to communicate science to advanced readers, demonstrating critical understanding of theory and methods used in current reading research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human cognitive functions.
- Critically evaluate theories of human cognitive function.
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses, and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate effective scientific communication.
- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills.

Science communication for functional readers

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **25%**

Infographic to communicate science to functional readers, demonstrating critical understanding of theory and methods used in current reading research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human cognitive functions.
- Critically evaluate theories of human cognitive function.
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses, and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate effective scientific communication.
- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills.

Science communication for non-readers

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **25%**

Non-written piece to communicate science to non-readers, demonstrating critical understanding of theory and methods used in current reading research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human cognitive functions.
- Critically evaluate theories of human cognitive function.
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses, and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate effective scientific communication.
- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Weekly welcome: A pre-recorded welcome video is provided at the start of each week (Mondays at 9AM) to introduce students to the topic of the week, remind people of deadlines to be met, and explain how we are going to manage unexpected circumstances (e.g., COVID outbreaks). Each weekly welcome is loaded under the appropriate week on the COGS3050 iLearn page, thus internet computer access is needed.

Weekly lectures: Videos of lectures, and online quizzes, are also released at the start of each week (Mondays at 9AM) to provide weekly topic content. Videos and quizzes are also listed under the appropriate week on the COGS3050 iLearn page, thus internet computer access is needed.

Tutorials: On-campus fortnightly tutorials are in-person, practical, and interactive. A digital device with access to internet is highly desirable, though not critical.

Q+A sessions + "Once upon a scientist ...": Weekly Q+A zoom sessions allow students to ask questions of world-leading researchers of the weekly topic, as well as what it is like to be a scientist in the modern world. Access to zoom is required.

Readings: Key and extended readings are available via Leganto on the COGS3050 iLearn page. Thus, internet computer access is required.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study

- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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.

Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every

student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.