

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2260 3.0 Section N COGNITION
Friday, 10:00-11:30 EST, Online via Zoom
Winter 2021**

This course will be delivered both synchronously and asynchronously. The synchronous portion of the course will include **attending lectures (delivered by Zoom) on Friday mornings from 10:00-11:30 EST**. Zoom lectures will be recorded and accessible on eClass. The asynchronous portion of the course will include a **brief video each week to prepare for the upcoming Zoom lecture**. Exams will be delivered via eClass.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Elisea De Somma
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: edesomma@yorku.ca

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| T.A. | Raman Sehra (Last Name A-Ji) | Samantha Feldman (Last Name Jo-Z) |
| Email: | sehraram@yorku.ca | sfeldma@yorku.ca |
| Office Hours | By appointment (Zoom) | By appointment (Zoom) |

Communication

Please **refer to the course syllabus prior** to contacting the course instructor or TA. Most questions can be answered in this document. For questions on course content, there will be 30 minutes at the end of each class dedicated to this. To schedule a meeting, please contact your respective TA. If you need to email the course instructor or the TA's directly, please include the **course code and section (2260 Section N)** and your **Student ID** in the **Subject Line**.

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: All course materials will be available on [eClass](#)

Course Description

This course explores the study of the human mind and human thinking. We will discuss a range of cognitive processes, such as perception, attention, memory, executive functioning, reasoning and judgement, and consciousness. Consideration into the experimental evidence for these processes will also be discussed, as well as the methods used by clinicians and researchers to assess cognitive abilities. Cognitive processes will be examined within the context of clinical case studies and real-world examples. The format of the course will include

a weekly pre-lecture video to watch prior to the lecture. Lectures will be held via Zoom from 10:00-11:30am EST on Friday mornings.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of cognitive psychology.
2. Describe and evaluate current theory and research in cognitive psychology.
3. Understand and interpret principles of cognition in everyday life.
4. Define causes of human cognition from different perspectives.

Required Text

Sinnett, S., Smilek, D., & Kingstone, A. (2016). Cognition, 6th edition. Oxford.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

| Assessment | Date of Evaluation (if known) | Weighting |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Midterm 1 | February 5 | 25% |
| Midterm 2 | March 12 | 25% |
| Final Exam | TBA – Final Exam Period | 30% |
| Article Evaluations *required to submit 2* | Due: January 29 March 5 April 9 | 10% |
| Minute Papers *required to submit 5* | Weekly | 10% |

Description of Assessments

Exams. Exams will consist of approximately 80% multiple choice questions and 20% short answer. Questions will be derived from assigned textbook material (pages outlined in course schedule), as well as lecture slides, and assigned weekly videos.

Midterm 1 (25%): Chapters 1-4 will be covered. The exam will be held through eClass on the scheduled date, and available from 8am – 10pm EST. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam. Please note that you will not be able to start the exam after 8pm EST.

Midterm 2 (25%): Chapters 5-6 and Executive Functions will be covered. The exam will be held through eClass on the scheduled date, and available from 8am – 10pm EST. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam. Please note that you will not be able to start the exam after 8pm EST.

Final exam (30%): All assigned material will be covered. Chapters 10-11 and 13 will be covered as new material, in addition to previously covered chapters and lecture material (1-6, and executive functions). The final exam will be held online during the scheduled exam period (Date and time TBD). You will have 3 hours to complete the exam.

Article Evaluations. Students will select 2 of the 3 assignment deadlines to submit an article evaluation (worth 5% each, for a total of 10% of final grade). Assignments are uploaded via eClass. The submission window will be open on eClass for one week, and the assignment must be submitted by 11:59pm EST on the deadline. No late submissions, extensions, or additional submission portals will be provided for any reason, as this course component is already extremely flexible and designed to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances. Please submit only **TWO** article evaluations. Each article evaluation will involve finding a news article, blog post, or social media post that is relevant to cognitive psychology. Once you have read the article, you will write a half page evaluating the article based on the current knowledge in cognitive psychology. More detail on this assignment will be posted to eClass.

Minute Papers. Minute papers will be assigned at the end of each class (8 total). You will be given a prompt at the end of the lecture to reflect on the course content that was delivered, or a topic relevant to the course. This activity is to help you to reflect on your knowledge; it should be brief and maximum 100 words in length, or **approximately a few sentences**. Each minute paper should take you no longer than a minute or two to complete (hence, “minute paper”). The minute papers will be counted as 10% towards your final grade, and **you will only need to submit 5 minute papers** (each counting as 2% of your final grade). Minute papers are submitted online through eClass. The submission window will open at 11:00am ET on Friday (i.e., immediately following the lecture presentation) and they must be submitted on eClass by **the start of the next class**. No late submissions, extensions, or additional submission portals will be provided for missed Minute Papers. More details will be provided in class.

Class Format and Attendance Policy

It is expected that students attend lectures through Zoom on Friday morning from 10:00-11:30am. The lecture structure will include a presentation of the chapter materials from 10:00-11:00, and time for questions/discussion from 11:00-11:30. Lecture material presented from 10:00-11:00 will be recorded and posted to eClass. It is also expected that students come prepared to class and view each week’s short video prior to the lecture. Participation is encouraged during lecture through Zoom Poll and asking questions via the Chat function. TA’s will be monitoring the chat for questions throughout the lecture period.

Computing Information

- [Student Guide to Moodle](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [Computing for Students Website](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and

tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2020-21](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

If a student misses Midterm 1 **OR** Midterm 2, the Final exam will be re-weighted to count for 55% of the final grade. There will be no make-up exams and no exceptions. No documentation is required if only one of the midterms is missed. The weight on the final exam will automatically be adjusted to 55% of the final grade.

If Midterm 1 **AND** Midterm 2 are missed, only students with an appropriately-documented reason for missing Midterm 2 (see next paragraph) may request accommodation from the instructor. Make-up exams will take the format of long- and short-answer essay questions. Scheduling of the make-up exam will be negotiated with the instructor.

If a student misses Midterm 1 **AND** Midterm 2, they **MUST** complete the following online form documenting their reason for missing Midterm 2. This form will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician’s Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2020-21 Important Dates](#)

| | Fall (F) | Year (Y) | Winter (W) |
|---|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Sept 22. | Sept 22. | Jan. 25 |
| Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Oct. 6 | Oct. 27 | Feb. 8 |
| Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines) | Nov. 6 | Feb. 5 | March 12 |
| Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below) | Nov. 7- Dec. 8 | Feb. 6 – April 12 | March 13- April 12 |

Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#). Tests are NOT open-book, and as such, it is expected that you would complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination.

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

Intellectual Property Notice

The course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 2260 Section N course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct under York's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and/or legal consequences for violation of copyright law if copyright law has been violated.

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as "Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation" (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy)

and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with *Student Accessibility Services (SAS)* to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

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Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule (subject to change)

| Week | Date | Topic | Deadlines | Reading |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | January 15 | Introduction/Cognitive Neuroscience | | Ch. 1 & 2 |
| 2 | January 22 | Perception | Minute-Paper 1 | Ch. 3 |
| 3 | January 29 | Attention | Minute-Paper 2; Article Eval. 1 | Ch. 4 |
| 4 | February 5 | EXAM I | | Ch. 1-4 |
| 5 | February 12 | Memory I | Minute-Paper 3 | Ch. 5 |
| 6 | February 19 | READING BREAK - NO CLASS | | - |
| 7 | February 26 | Memory II | Minute-Paper 4 | Ch. 6 |
| 8 | March 5 | Executive Functions | Minute-Paper 5; Article Eval. 2 | - |
| 9 | March 12 | EXAM II | | Ch. 5-6, EFs |
| 10 | March 19 | Problem-Solving | Minute-Paper 6 | Ch. 10 |
| 11 | March 26 | Reasoning and Judgement | Minute-Paper 7 | Ch. 11 |
| 12 | April 2 | GOOD FRIDAY - NO CLASS | | - |
| 13 | April 9 | Consciousness | Minute-Paper 8; Article Eval. 3 | Ch. 13 |