Course Description
This course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of topics related to the information-processing mechanisms of the mind, including consciousness, perception, attention, memory, conceptual knowledge, and emotions. Special emphasis will be placed on biases in judgment and economic decision-making. An evolutionary, functional perspective will be applied throughout.

Course Objectives
The following course objectives support learning outcomes of the Behavioral Sciences division:

• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of well established theories in cognitive psychology, as well as an appreciation for the complexity of cognitive processes;
• Appreciate research and theories of cognition from diverse fields of study, including neuroscience, neuropsychology, evolutionary psychology, and behavioral economics;
• Acquire an understanding of research methods in cognitive psychology and the ability to critically evaluate research in this area;
• Apply the use of traditional research designs in cognitive psychology (e.g., reaction time) to understand mental events;
• Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method and targeted topics in cognitive psychology in the composition of two APA-style short reports;
• Apply research in cognitive psychology to everyday events and challenges

Accommodations
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Services, APSC 405, or at 503-838-8250, as early as possible in the term. Students needing medical or mental health care can access the Student Health and Counseling Center by calling 503-838-8313, emailing at health@wou.edu, or by walking in to schedule an appointment.

Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor.
Dr. Cloud will not respond to emails about questions that can be answered by looking at the syllabus.

**Required Textbooks**
- Additional readings may be posted on Moodle as well.

**Classroom Policies**

**Email:** You are expected to check your university email account on a daily basis for communication from me concerning the class. Email is the best way to contact me. I aim to return all inquiries within 24 hours.

**Classroom Conduct:** In order to effectively communicate class material, all students are expected to be non-disruptive and respectful of one another during lecture. Please refrain from arriving late, leaving early, or packing your belongings until after class is dismissed.

I have a zero-tolerance policy regarding the use of cell phones and laptops for anything other than note-taking purposes. If I suspect a violation of this policy at any time, I will immediately ask you to leave the classroom.

**Class notes:** It is important to me that you are able to focus your attention on course material and actively participate. For that reason, electronic copies of the PowerPoint slides will be posted on Moodle. On occasion, you will find that a key term has intentionally been left blank; you will be provided the missing term during lecture. I recommend that you print a copy of the slides before each lecture to take notes on in class.

**Grade-grubbing:** A responsibility of teachers and scientists alike is to be humble. As such, I remain open to the possibility of being wrong. If you feel that you have been assigned an unfair grade, I encourage you to meet with me and explain your rationale. That said, I am not receptive to students who ask me to give them a higher grade out of the kindness of my heart (e.g., “but I need a B to graduate!”). I respect students who take ownership of the grade they earned.

**Audio recordings:** If you wish to make audio recordings of my lectures, please contact me to request permission. Permission to make audio recordings will be granted once the student signs an agreement, which specifies acceptable use of the recordings. Video recording the lectures is not permitted out of respect for the other students’ right to privacy.

**Extra credit:** You may earn up to 10 points of extra credit by participating in research projects conducted in the Psychological Sciences Department (2 pts. each) or by reading and summarizing psychological journal articles related to topics discussed in class (summary papers are due on the last lecture day). Detailed instructions will be posted on Moodle.
Course Engagement

Doing well in this course requires a high level of engagement both inside and outside of class. You are expected to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions and activities.

Lecture Attendance (15 pts.): Attendance will be taken daily. You will receive 1 attendance point for each lecture day (not exam day) that you attend, for a maximum of 15 points.

Participation (5 pts.): At the end of the semester, I will assign you a participation grade based on your participation in class discussions, activities, and your observance of the basic rules of classroom conduct. If you do not contribute to the class, you will receive 0 pts. (which could result in a lower letter grade).

Assignments

Book Club Participation (30 pts.): A portion of the first three lectures will be devoted to the discussion of assigned chapter readings from Why Everyone (Else) Is a Hypocrite. By midnight on the evening prior to each lecture, you must post a response to one of two “Food for Thought” questions on the Moodle discussion board. I will grade the thoughtfulness of your posted response (5 pts.) as well as your contribution to Book Club discussion in lecture (5 pts.), for a total of 10 possible points for each of the three Book Club sessions.

Two Short Reports (50 pts. each): In pairs (you may choose your partner), you must write two miniature APA-style papers (approx. 6 pages each) based on the analysis of class data. The first Short Report will relate to information covered in Block 2; the second Short Report will relate to information covered in Block 3. Detailed instructions regarding each Short Report will be delivered the day it is assigned. One hardcopy of the Short Report is due from each pair on the respective Block Exam day. There will be no make-ups or extensions.

Each Short Report must include a(n):

- Title page (including authors and affiliation)
- Introduction section relating existing findings to the research question at hand (articles will be provided)
- Method section
- Results section briefly summarizing the results of a t-test analysis
- Discussion section relating the obtained findings to the research question
- APA-formatted references page

Reading Quizzes

It is critical in this course that you are properly prepared for lectures and in-class discussions. Part of that preparation includes the completion of reading assignments prior to the start of class. To ensure that you keep up with the reading assignments, there will be five pop Reading Quizzes. Each Reading Quiz will consist of 10 true/false questions, worth 1 point each. A Reading Quiz can occur on any day that a reading assignment is due. There will be no make-up Reading Quizzes for unexcused absences. For excused absences, the next Reading Quiz will count double.
Exams
There will be three non-cumulative Block Exams and one optional cumulative Final Exam given during the final exam period. Each Block Exam and the optional Final Exam will be multi-format (multiple choice, short-answer) and worth 50 points. A student may take the optional Final Exam to replace the lowest grade earned on a Block Exam.

Review Sessions: I will host an online review chat on Moodle from 8:00-9:00pm on the evening prior to each exam.

Study Guides: I do not provide study guides as doing so would rob you of an additional opportunity to rehearse lecture material. I encourage you to make your own study guide and/or flashcards and share your materials with others. In lieu of study guides, I host an online chat review (see above).

Make-up Policy: If a student must miss a Block Exam, the student is required to contact me prior to the exam date. Students with excused absences will be permitted to take a makeup exam on the final exam date, during which time they may also take the Final Exam. Students with unexcused absences will not be permitted to take a makeup exam; they must instead take the optional Final Exam to replace a grade of zero given for the missed Block Exam.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. According to the WOU Code of Student Responsibility (Section 574-31-030), academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

• Cheating: Intentional use or attempted use of artifice, deception, fraud, and/or misrepresentations of one’s academic work.

• Fabrication: Unauthorized falsification and/or invention of any information or citation in any academic exercise.

• Facilitating dishonesty: Helping or attempting to help another person commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes students who substitute for other persons in examinations or represent as their own papers, reports, or any other academic work of others.

• Plagiarism: Representing without giving credit the words, data, or ideas of another person as one’s own work in any academic exercise. This includes submitting, in whole or part, prewritten term papers of another or the research of another, including but not limited to, products of commercial vendors who sell or distribute such materials.

• Any use or attempted use of electronic devices in gaining an illegal advantage in academic work in which use of these devices is prohibited. Such devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, PDAs, iPads, laptops, programmable calculators, etc.
Dr. Cloud will not respond to emails about questions that can be answered by looking at the syllabus.

**Grading**

Your grade is determined by the sum of scores you receive on each of the five Reading Quizzes (10 points each), each of the three Block Exams (50 points each), each of the two Short Reports (50 points each), your Book Club participation score (30 points), and your Course Engagement score (20 points).

\[
\text{RQ #1 (10 pts.)} + \text{RQ #2 (10 pts.)} + \text{RQ #3 (10 pts.)} + \text{RQ #4 (10 pts.)} + \text{RQ #5 (10 pts.)} = 50 \text{ pts.}
\]

\[
\text{Book Club Session #1 Post (5 pts.)} + \text{Book Club Session #2 Post (5 pts.)} + \text{Book Club Session #3 Post (5 pts.)} = 30 \text{ pts.}
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\[
\text{Short Report 1 (50 pts.)} + \text{Short Report 2 (50 pts.)} = 100 \text{ pts.}
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\text{Block Exam 1 (50 pts.)} + \text{Block Exam 2 (50 pts.)} + \text{Block Exam 3 (50 pts.)} = 150 \text{ pts.}
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Total = 350 pts.

**Grading Scale**

To determine your letter grade, divide the total number of points you earned in this class (including any extra credit) and divide by the total number of points possible (350).

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<thead>
<tr>
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# Course Schedule – Fall 2013

(subject to change)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Block 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Oct. 1</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Oct. 3</td>
<td>Introduction to Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>Prologue + Ch. 1 and 2 *</td>
<td>Book Club Posting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Oct. 8</td>
<td>The Modular Mind</td>
<td>Ch. 3 and 4 *</td>
<td>Book Club Posting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Oct. 10</td>
<td>Consciousness</td>
<td>Ch. 5 and 6 *</td>
<td>Book Club Posting</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct. 15</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Oct. 17</td>
<td>Attention</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct. 22</td>
<td>BLOCK EXAM 1</td>
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<td><strong>Block 2</strong></td>
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<td>Thurs. Oct. 24</td>
<td>Memory Acquisition</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
<td>Short Report 1 covered</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct. 29</td>
<td>Memory Storage and Retrieval</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<td>Thurs. Oct. 31</td>
<td>Memory Errors</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov. 5</td>
<td>Conceptual Knowledge</td>
<td>Moodle Chapter</td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov. 7</td>
<td>Emotions as Cognitive Programs</td>
<td>Moodle Article 1</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov. 12</td>
<td>BLOCK EXAM 2</td>
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<td>Short Report 1 due!</td>
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<td><strong>Block 3</strong></td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov. 14</td>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
<td>Ch. 14</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov. 19</td>
<td>Deductive Reasoning</td>
<td>Ch. 13, p. 436-452</td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov. 21</td>
<td>Inductive Reasoning</td>
<td>Ch. 12 (AFTER lecture)</td>
<td>Short Report 2 covered</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov. 26</td>
<td>Economic Decision-Making</td>
<td>Moodle Article 2</td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov. 28</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING!</td>
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<td>Tues. Dec. 3</td>
<td>Choice Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 5</td>
<td>BLOCK EXAM 3</td>
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<td>Short Report 2 due!</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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<td>Thur. Dec. 12, 12 – 1:50pm</td>
<td>OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM</td>
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* Reading from Why Everyone (Else) Is a Hypocrite