Baruch College

Department of Psychology

Cognitive Psychology (PSY 3081 – FMWA)

Spring 2026

Instructor: Joseph Hosie
Office Hours: Monday–Wednesday, 3:00–4:00 PM (VC 4-230J), and by appointment
Email: joseph.hosie@baruch.cuny.edu

Meeting Times: Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:50–7:05 PM
Location: 17 Lexington Avenue, Room 611

Course Description

Cognitive psychology examines the mental processes that allow humans to acquire, store, transform, and use information. This course surveys core areas of cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, problem solving, and reasoning, with an emphasis on experimental findings and the theoretical frameworks used to explain them.

The course also introduces students to methods used in cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience, highlighting how behavioral experiments and brain-based evidence contribute to scientific understanding. Throughout the semester, attention is given to how competing theoretical models are evaluated and how empirical data are used to support, refine, or reject explanations of cognitive processes.

In addition to theoretical understanding, students will consider applications of cognitive psychology to real-world issues such as learning, attention in modern environments, memory errors, decision making, and communication.

Course Goals and Assessment

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate understanding of major theories and empirical findings in cognitive psychology**
   Assessed through exams and quizzes
2. **Explain how experimental evidence is used to evaluate competing cognitive models**
   Assessed through exam questions and written assignments

3. **Apply cognitive psychology concepts to real-world situations and examples**
   Assessed through application-based exam questions and in-class activities
4. **Identify and describe methods used in cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience**
   Assessed through exams and in-class exercises
5. **Communicate psychological concepts clearly and accurately**
   Assessed through exams, written assignments, and class participation

Course outcomes are assessed through exams, quizzes, written assignments, and in-class activities designed to measure students' understanding of core concepts, empirical findings, and applications of cognitive psychology.

Textbook and Materials

Required Text:
Goldstein, E. B. (2019). *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience* (5th ed.). Cengage.

Additional Readings:
Supplemental readings may be assigned for selected topics. These will be posted on Brightspace.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be determined as follows:

- **Midterm Exam:** 35%
- **Final Exam:** 35%
- **Written Assignment (Paper):** 20%
- **Quizzes and Class Participation:** 10%

Exams are primarily non-cumulative but may require familiarity with earlier material. The final exam will include both recent and integrative content.

A short paper will be required during the semester. Details regarding the assignment will be provided later.

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance and active participation are expected. Class sessions include lecture, discussion, and in-class activities that are essential for understanding course material. Students are responsible for all material covered in class, including announcements and schedule changes.

Course Schedule (Subject to Adjustment)

Topic	Date
Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (Ch. 1)	Mon, Jan 26
Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (Ch. 1)	Wed, Jan 28
Cognitive Neuroscience (Ch. 2)	Mon, Feb 2
Cognitive Neuroscience (Ch. 2)	Wed, Feb 4
Perception (Ch. 3)	Mon, Feb 9
Perception (Ch. 3)	Wed, Feb 11
No class – College Closed	Mon, Feb 16
Attention: Early vs. Late Selection (Ch. 4)	Wed, Feb 18
Attention: Filtering, Binding, and Selection (Ch. 4)	Mon, Feb 23
Short-Term Storage & Sensory Register (Ch. 5)	Wed, Feb 25
Working Memory: Components and Functions (Ch. 5)	Mon, Mar 2
Working Memory: Visuospatial Sketchpad & Episodic Buffer (Ch. 5)	Wed, Mar 4
Review for Midterm Exam	Mon, Mar 9
Midterm Exam (Ch. 1–5)	Wed, Mar 11
Long-Term Memory: Structure (Ch. 6)	Mon, Mar 16
Long-Term Memory: Structure (Ch. 6)	Wed, Mar 18
Encoding, Retrieval, Consolidation (Ch. 7)	Mon, Mar 23
Encoding, Retrieval, Consolidation (Ch. 7)	Wed, Mar 25
Everyday Memory and Memory Errors (Ch. 8)	Mon, Mar 30
Everyday Memory and Memory Errors (Ch. 8)	Wed, Apr 1
No class – Spring Recess	Mon, Apr 6
No class – Spring Recess	Wed, Apr 8
Conceptual Knowledge (Ch. 9)	Mon, Apr 13
Visual Memory (Ch. 10)	Wed, Apr 15
Language (Ch. 11)	Mon, Apr 20
Language (Ch. 11)	Wed, Apr 22
Problem Solving (Ch. 12)	Mon, Apr 27
Problem Solving (Ch. 12)	Wed, Apr 29

Topic	Date
Judgment and Reasoning (Ch. 13)	Mon, May 4
Judgment and Reasoning (Ch. 13)	Wed, May 6

Final Exam: During the official finals period (date and time TBA)

Baruch College Policies and Resources

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to adhere to Baruch College's policies on academic honesty. Academic misconduct, including plagiarism and cheating, will be handled in accordance with college guidelines.

Disability Services
Students with disabilities who may require accommodation should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD). Accommodations are arranged through OSSD and should be discussed with the instructor early in the semester.

Writing Center
Free tutoring and writing support are available through the Baruch Writing Center. Students are encouraged to use this resource for help with written assignments.

Counseling Center
Mental health and wellness support is available to students through the Baruch College Counseling Center.