

**PSY270: Introduction to Psychology: Selected Issues.**

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**Topics covered:** The class is focused on introductory topics in psychology, more concretely on topics in cognition and mind. How do we process information, manipulate and transform into a meaningful, coherent entity? How do we retrieve information retained in our memory? What are some memory biases? How does brain relate to mind (mind-body problem)? How does brain give rise to consciousness?

Those, but more questions will be answered in the class.

Introduction to Cognition. Philosophical and psychological underpinnings of study of mind and human cognitive faculties (Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, structuralism, functionalism, behaviorism, gestalt); research methods in cognitive psychology. Perception and Vision. Bottom-Up and Top-Down Processing in Perception. Object recognition. Perceptual organization. Color perception. Optical illusions.

Attention. Broadbent's theory. Treisman's theory. Selective attention. Divided attention. Stroop's attention. Automatic processing. Inattention blindness.

Memory. Short-term memory vs Long term memory. Working memory. Eye witness testimony. Theories of forgetting. Theories of recall.

Consciousness. Theories of consciousness. Current approaches to understanding consciousness (Chalmers, Noe, Ramachandran, Logothesis etc.). Consciousness versus attention.

Language. Language production vs. language comprehension. Speech perception and reading.

Thinking and Reasoning. Theoretical approaches to reasoning. Deductive vs inductive reasoning. Theories of emotional processing.

Judgment and Decision Making. Theories of decision making. Representativeness heuristic. Availability heuristics. Support theory.

Cognition and emotion. Emotions and their influence on cognitive processing. Emotions versus memory. Emotion, attention and perception.

Free will. Perspective from philosophy of mind.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
21.09.2011	Introduction of the class	<b>Syllabus covered</b>
28.09.2011	Class cancelled	
05.10.2011	Intro to Cognition. Perception/ Vision	
12.10.2011	Attention	
19.10.2011	Memory I	
26.10.2011	Memory II	<b>ESSAY I DUE</b>
02.11.2011	Consciousness	
09.11.2011	Language	<b>Response paper due</b>
16.11.2011	Thinking and Reasoning	
23.11.2011	Professor Castello-lecture	
30.11.2011	Class presentations	
7.12.2011	FINAL EXAM	

**CLASS POLICY:**

Students' participation in the class is required. Students can miss only 2 classes (if more classes are missed, students' grade suffers one grade down with every other class missed). The essay (approx. 1000 words; Times New Roman; 12; 1,5 spaced) must be turned on the designated day (every late day means lowering 5 points). Essay will be a discussion based on the topics covered in the class. Students' task is to propose a problem- discussion theme and pose an argument finding evidence pro- argument as well as against argument in the literature. Graded is: how elaborate is the essay, if the argument is well-evidenced by the literature, citation style, number and quality of papers cited (not introductory books solely)

Essay =20 points

Class presentation= 20 points

Pop quizzes (2)= 10 points

Final Exam= 50 points

Bonus= 10 points for class participation

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Maximum= 100 points (10 bonus points will be added if the maximum will not be reached)

Grading:

100-93 = A
92-85= B
84-77= C
76- 69= D
68- 61=E
below 60= F

READINGS will be posted on IS. Students must read every reading prior to the class. This will not only enhance their understanding of topic covered, but also because any pop quiz might occur during class.