# Instructor Details

**Name:** Francesca Peressotti  
**NYUHome Email Address:** fp37@nyu.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., or by appointment  
**Office Location:** Villa Ulivi  
**Office Extension:** 314

# Class Details

**Semester:** Spring 2012  
**Full Title of Course:** Cognition  
**Meeting Days and Times:** Tuesdays, 1:30-4:15 p.m.  
**Classroom Location:** Fiesole, Villa Ulivi

# Prerequisites

Having already passed at least an Introductory course in Psychology

# Class Description

This course provides an in-depth exploration of human cognition, focusing on both classic and current issues. The study of cognition relies heavily on experimental research designed to test models and theories of cognitive processes, and we will explore both behavioral and neuropsychological approaches to data and theory. Topics will include, perception, attention, memory and language.

Lectures will be focused on some of the topics included in the textbook, that, however, might be treated differently than in the text. In such cases book reading could nicely integrate lesson content. Lectures would also include some arguments that are not directly treated in the textbook. In all cases students will be provided with lecture slides to support their study.

# Desired Outcomes

Given the wide variety of topics in cognitive psychology, my major objective for this course is to help you develop expertise in it. You will gain experience in cognitive research methodology, both by participating in a number of classic research studies as well as by designing and conducting a group research study of your own. My goal is to provide a thorough immersion in these topics that will serve as a foundation for further reading and research.

# Assessment Components

To complete the course students will be required to (1) take one midterm exam based on the lectures from the first part of the course; (2) take one final exam based on the lectures from the second part of the course, (3) run CogLab experiments when required and write a short report for each experiment (4) present a summary and discussion of a research article selected by the student from the *Supplementary Readings* (each student will be required to read just one of the supplemental reading articles that will be used for this assignment). The assignment at point 4 can be performed individually or in groups of 2 people, according to the total number of students. If the number exceeds 15, small groups will be strongly recommended.

- **Mid term exam:** 30%  
- **Final Term exam:** 30%  
- **Presentation of Research Article:** 20%

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### Writings of Reports: 20%

**Writing of the Research Short Report:** The text should not exceed 1000 words and should include a title, a brief introduction, the underlying rationale and hypotheses, the method used, the result obtained, the result expected and a discussion. Also, answer to the discussion question reported in the CogLab book (not included in the 1000 words). Short report will be assigned 15 days before the due date. The experiment to be performed and described in the report will be related to the arguments presented during classes.

**Presentation of Research Article:** Each student (group of students) will be required to select one of the supplementary readings and present a PowerPoint presentation on that article. This discussion should include a brief summary of the research (including research questions, methods, results, conclusions) and a critique discussion on the methods and conclusions.

**Mid term and final term exams:** The exams consist in written tests of multiple choices

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<th>Assessment Expectations</th>
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<td><strong>Grade A:</strong> The student acquired all the concepts and the arguments treated during the lessons (performance in the midterm and final exams above the 85%). The median evaluation in the written reports (excluding the first one) is around “very good”, that is the student is able to well-organize and well-write all the sections of a research report (rationale, hypothesis, methods and results) and to discuss the results in the light of the theoretical perspectives presented in class. The student is showing personal and critical understanding of the experiment with respect to the theory. The student can present a research paper to the class in an absolutely clear and correct manner, showing wide understanding of the rationale of the research and of the results obtained. Also, the student is able to critically integrate the study within the appropriate theoretical framework. Finally, the student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade B:</strong> The student acquired the large majority of the concepts and the arguments treated during the lessons (performance in the midterm and final exams above the 70%). The median evaluation in the written reports (excluding the first one) is around “good”, that is the student can well-organize and well-write the experiment in the research report and understands the main point of the rationale and the hypothesis. Also the student is able to properly discuss the experiment reported with respect to the theories presented in class. The student can present a research paper to the class in a clear and correct way, understanding of the rationale of the research and the results obtained. Also, it is able to integrate that research with acquired theoretical information. Finally, the student is prepared in class and participates by asking questions.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade C:</strong> The student acquired quite well the concepts and the arguments treated during the lessons (performance in the midterm and final exams above the 60%). The median evaluation in the written reports (excluding the first one) is around “satisfactory”, that is the student is able to write an experiment, understanding the underlying hypothesis and experimental design. Also the student makes reference to the relevant theories presented in class. The student can present a research paper to the class, at least in its main points, making reference to the theoretical concepts acquired during the course.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade D:</strong> The student shows only a partial acquisition of the concepts and the arguments treated during the lessons (performance in the midterm and final exams above the 50%). The median evaluation in the written reports (excluding the first one) is around “poor”, that is the student can report an experiment knowing what has to be written in each of the sections of the report. The student must be able to present a research paper to the class,</td>
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following the instructions given in class.

**Grade F:** The student does not demonstrate to have acquired the concepts and the arguments treated during the lessons (performance in the midterm and final exams is under the 50%). Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade conversion</th>
<th>A=90-100</th>
<th>A-=85-90</th>
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**Grading Policy**

Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance:

Attendance is expected and required of all students. Any absences will negatively impact upon your course grade

Absences:

*In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student*

**Absence Due to Illness**

- If you are sick, please see a doctor (contact the OSL for information).
- **Only a medical certificate from a local medical professional** will be accepted to justify an absence due to illness
- Within 24 hours of your return to class **you must bring this note to the Office of Academic Support**, located on the ground floor of Villa Ulivi. We will review the medical certificate and we will notify your faculty via email about your justified absence due to illness
- Absences for short term illness **without a medical certificate** are not justified and count as **unjustified absences**. We will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness. We will not notify your faculty about these absences
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences

**Due to Religious Observance**

- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. **This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday**
- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose

**Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity**

- All students are entitled to miss **one class period** without any penalty to
their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by NYU Florence or La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.

- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose

### Late Submission of Work

- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the blackboard.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor.
- To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

### Plagiarism Policy

**PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:**
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, The faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school. Please consult the “Academic Guidelines for Success” distributed on your USB key at Check-in and on the NYU Florence Global Wiki.

For a detailed description of some possible forms of plagiarism and cheating please consult the Community Compact that you signed at Orientation, a copy of which is on the above mentioned Wiki and USB key.

### Required Text(s)


Course slides and *supplementary reading articles* are to be found online, through links available on our Blackboard site.

### Supplemental Texts(s)

(not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library or available online)

All additional articles listed on the blackboard can also be found at Villa Ulivi Library.

### Internet Research Guidelines

The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and some websites will be presented during classes. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.
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<th>Sessions</th>
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| Sept. 31th – Dec. 13th | Thursday August 30th  
 1. Introduction – Description of the main features of the course, in terms of  
- contents
- assignments  
- grading  
Unit 1: Cognitive psychology as a Science |
|             | Tuesday September 4th  
 2. Unit 1: Methods in cognitive Psychology  
Readings: Chapter 1 |
|             | Thursday September 13th  
 3. Perception  
Readings: Chapter 2 |
|             | Tuesday September 18th  
 4. Object recognition  
First short report discussion |
|             | Thursday September 27th  
 5. Attention 1  
Readings: Chapter 4 |
|             | Thursday October 4th  
 6. Attention 2 |
|             | Thursday October 11th  
 7. Mid term exam  
Midterm correction  
Discussion of the reports both in general and individually |
|             | Thursday October 18th  
 8. Memory 1  
Readings: Chapter 5 |
|             | Friday November 25th  
 9. Memory 2  
Article presentation  
Readings: Chapter 6 |
|             | Thursday November 8th  
 10. Semantic memory  
Readings: Chapter 8 |
|             | Thursday November 15th  
 11. Language 1  
Readings: Chapter 9 |
|             | Thursday November 22th  
 12. Language 2  
Readings: Chapter 10  
Article presentation |
|             | Thursday November 29th  
 13. Language 3  
Article presentation |
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<tr>
<td>14. Language 4</td>
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<td>Article presentation</td>
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<th>Thursday December 13th</th>
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<td>15. Final term</td>
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**Classroom Etiquette**

- Eating is not permitted in the class. Bottled water is permitted.
- Cell phones should be turned off during class time.
- The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.
- We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings.

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**