Instructor Details
Jan de Fockert PhD

Class Details
Cognition Fall 2013
Wednesday 9 am– 12noon
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
N/A

Class Description
This course provides a detailed introduction to the major topics in cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience, including perception, memory, language, problem solving, reasoning, and decision making. The course will discuss cutting-edge developments from research using behavioural, neuroimaging, and clinical methods. The class will involve lectures, student presentations, discussion, video material to accompany lectures, and occasional example class experiments. The course also has a practical component, for which students work in small groups and conduct an empirical study, which they write up in a research report.

Desired Outcomes
The desired outcomes for this course are that students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the basic cognitive functions, based on key research findings.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the main theories of cognition.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic methods of cognitive research, plus their strengths and weaknesses.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the scientific process underlying cognitive research, and show a basic ability to assess the scientific quality of research.
5. Demonstrate ability to conduct and report a basic piece of empirical work.

Assessment Components
Class presentation (10%) – a short (10-15 minute) class presentation on a cognitive topic selected by the student, and agreed by the lecturer.

Course essay (30%) (2000 – 2500 words) on a cognitive topic selected by the student, and agreed by the lecturer. The essay is to be submitted in Session 6.

Research report (30%) (2000 – 2500 words) describing an empirical study conducted by the students. Students will work in small groups or 3 or 4 students to test participants and analyse data. Each student will produce their own report of the study in the format of a research article. Materials for the experiment will be provided by the lecturer. The research report is to be submitted by Session 14.
Final exam (30%) – consisting of a multiple-choice test and short answers.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** Clear evidence of understanding, plus the ability to apply knowledge and reflect on the student’s own learning.

**Grade B:** Evidence of understanding and the ability to apply course content, but lacking reflectivity.

**Grade C:** Evidence of good understanding, but lacking evidence of reflectivity and the ability to apply course content.

**Grade D:** Evidence of understanding in a minimally acceptable way, and lacking reflectivity and the ability to apply course content.

**Grade F:** Plagiarized, did not participate satisfactorily, didn’t hand in work, lack of understanding.

**Grade conversion**

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

**Grading Policy**

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.
NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with the guidelines that follow.

**Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.**

**Absence reporting**

1. On the first day of absence you should report the details of your illness by calling free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) or by emailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including class missed, professor, class time and whether any work was due including exams.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://www.nyu.edu/global/london/academics/attendance_policy.htm

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes (freshmen) or Nigel Freeman (non-freshmen) on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes (Freshmen) or Assistant Director for Academic Affairs (non-freshmen) **prior** to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for non-illness purposes can be applied retrospectively.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

3% will be deducted from the student's final course mark for each unexcused absence. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.). In the past, students have asked about early departure from the program at the end of the semester. This will not normally be allowed. Under no circumstances will we allow a student to take a final exam at any time other than it has been scheduled - neither before the other students in the class, nor afterwards. Students have been informed not to make return travel plans before the end of the exam week. Exams may not be held during your regularly scheduled class meeting. Please do not make plans during the exam period until you know the exact times of your exams.
NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance.

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**Late Submission of Work**

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs **in office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

(3) Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

(4) Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

(5) **Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

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**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

**Electronic Submission**

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact luke.harper@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.
To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) **Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor** (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

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### Session 2
11 September 2013

**Introduction to cognitive psychology**

**Reading:**

1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 1

### Session 3
18 September 2013

**Perception**

**Reading:**

1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 2


### Session 4
25 September 2013

**Object recognition**

**Reading:**

1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 2


### Session 5
2 October 2013

**Attention 1**

**Reading:**

1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 3, 7


### Session 6
9 October 2013

**Attention 2 [Submit Coursework Essay]**

**Reading:**

1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 6


### Session 7
16 October 2013

**Memory: basic principles**

**Reading:**


1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 5


**Session 8**  
23 October 2013  
Long-term and everyday memory  
Reading:  
1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 4  

**Session 9**  
25 October 2013  
(Make-up Friday)  
Concepts and categories  
Reading:  
1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 12  
*Psychological Bulletin* 129, 592-613. (.pdf available via NYU-Home NYUClasses)

**Session 10**  
30 October 2013  
Language 1  
Reading:  
1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 12  

**Session 11**  
13 November 2013  
Language 2  
Reading:  
1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 12  

**Session 12**  
20 November 2013  
Problem solving  
Reading:  
1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 10  
Session 13
27 November

Reasoning and decision making

Reading:

1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 9, 10


Session 14
4 December 2013

Cognition and emotion, consciousness [Submit Research Report]

Reading:

1. Smith & Kosslyn chapter 8


Session 15
11 December 2013

Final exam.

Classroom Etiquette

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.

Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.

Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Required Co-curricular Activities

None

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

None