Advanced Cognitive Psychology

(PSYC3068)

Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong

Lectures:
Wed 1430 – 1630, CPD-3.01

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Office hours: By appointment
Tutorial Session: Wed 1630; 1730

Course Description
This is a seminar-based course that covers some of the more recent developments in cognitive psychology. It is designed to prepare students to conduct research in cognitive psychology. Students will gain an in depth understanding of the current issues and research paradigms in cognitive psychology by reviewing the current literature, and via individual and collaborative projects. Topics may include emotion and memory, memory reconsolidation, attention, learning, meta-cognition, etc.

Learning Objectives
- To develop in-depth understanding in selected cognitive psychology topics
- To refine the ability to critically conduct and evaluate a cognitive psychological research
- To refine the capacity for developing adequate research designs to target a specific problem of interest in cognitive psychology.
- To refine their sensitivity to ethical responsibilities and other concerns in research.
Textbook and Materials

No textbook is adopted for this course. All required readings will be posted on Moodle.

Computer Resources

Lecture slides, homework assignments, and readings will be made available on Moodle.

Assessment

Forum (submit any three of your choice, 3% each + 1% bonus on the forth topic) 10%
Class and tutorial participation (5% participation + 5% attendance) 10%
Collaborative Research I: Research Proposal 30%
Collaborative Research II: The Referee process 20%
Individual Paper 30%

Discussion Questions

For most of the teaching weeks, we will focus on one specific topic in cognitive psychology. Selected relevant readings will be assigned. These readings are taken from the more recent literature, presenting some of the current issues and recent advancement of the topic. All students are expected to review these readings before class to facilitate in-class discussion.

A forum will be opened for each of the topics covered. Over the course, you are required to select three of the topics, post a thought-provoking question and prepare an answer for the question. Each of these answer and question pairs consists of 3% of the total grade.

Questions posted will be used in class as discussion questions, and you are required to report your answer during the discussion.

A bonus mark will be given if you post questions on more than three forums.

Individual paper and presentation (paper due 25th Oct)

As a part of the term’s assessment, each student will be required to review a select topic in cognitive psychology in depth, culminating in a term paper. The absolute maximum length of essays is 2000 words of text (excluding the cover sheet and references). In your essay, prepare an integrative synthesis of a topic in cognitive psychology of your choice based on the seed readings provided in our weekly thought topics (any of the topics from weeks 2-7) and lecture topics, along with any additional readings you consider important and relevant. You should address the issue of whether your readings in your chosen area are converging towards a coherent picture, or if there are incongruities, identify them and suggest a resolution (i.e., future proposed research directions, or alternative explanations). If you are
having trouble deciding whether your intended framework is too broad or narrow, feel free to consult your lecturer or tutor.

Collaborative research and refereeing

(I) The class will be divided into small groups. Each group will propose a project together and write a multiple studies research proposal which will need to include the following sections: background, motivation, research questions, experiment designs, expected results, theoretical significance and implications. Each group member will be required to design and write up their experiment designs and expected results. You are strongly encouraged to talk to the tutor about possible proposal topics early in the semester. The deadline of the proposal is 8th Nov, 2017.

(II) To ensure you are on track, your group will also need to submit a short research statement (within two pages, double-spaced) for the proposed research project and a reference list including related key readings by 11th Oct, 2017.

(II) After the submission of the collaborative experimental proposal, each group will do a presentation on their proposed work during the class. The presentation is 20-min with a 10-min discussion (Q & A). In addition, each group will provide reviewer comments on other groups’ proposal. These comments will be consolidated and provided to the presenter group the following week. Two weeks after your presentation, your group will submit a revised proposal that addresses the “reviewer” comments from your peers. A written “response letter to reviewer comments” will need to be submitted together with your revised proposal. We will review guidelines on how to review a research proposal and how to reply to reviewer comments / write a response letter in class.

Class and tutorial participation

The development of the field of Cognitive Psychology, as well as other professional areas, relies heavily on the good will and collaboration from peers. Other than undergoing extensive peer-review on our work, we advance from discussion with others. The assessment on class and tutorial participation is to recognize a student’s contribution to help others to learn in this course, which will count 5% of the total grade.

Attendance of tutorials are required in this course. Attendance of each tutorial counts 1% of the total grade (2% in total). In addition to the tutorials, each group of students are required to make at least three appointments with course tutor to discuss about their research proposal before its deadline (8th Nov, 2017). Each appointment will count 1% of the total grade (3% in total).

Feedback Policy

Students can expect to receive feedback within three weeks after submitting written assignments and the quizzes. Quiz paper will not be returned to students; however, students can get individual feedback about the quizzes through making appointments with their tutors.
Homework Submission

No late homework assignments will be accepted, unless a valid medical proof is presented. Each assignment submission should have the course code, instructor’s name, your name, UID, and tutorial session written down at the top of the first page clearly.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, interfering with grading) will receive a grade of F in this course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. If you are not sure what constitutes an academic offense of plagiarism, consult your Lecturer or Tutor. You may also consult the relevant HKU webpage on plagiarism at http://www.rss.hku.hk/plagiarism.

Plagiarism

A hardcopy and a softcopy are required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties include a zero mark for participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to your Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Introduction &amp; Organization</td>
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<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Tutorial 1: How to write a research proposal Tutorial 2: Review on experimental design and statistical analysis</td>
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<td>8/11</td>
<td>Collaborative Presentations I Proposal</td>
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<td>Collaborative Presentations III Proposal</td>
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<td>29/11</td>
<td>Warp-up</td>
<td>Revised proposal due for those who present on 15/11</td>
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<td>6/12</td>
<td>Revised proposal due for those who present on 22/11</td>
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*Quiz date

#Readings are required to be done before attending the lecture