

**PSYC 313 — Cognitive Psychology**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Vancouver Island University**

**Course Website:** [www.drjnicol.weebly.com](http://www.drjnicol.weebly.com)

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeffrey Nicol

**Email:** [jeffrey.nicol@viu.ca](mailto:jeffrey.nicol@viu.ca)

**Office:** B356-R350

**Lectures:** Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30–10:00

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00—11:30 PM (or by appointment via Zoom)

**Course Description**

An introduction to the major areas of study in the field of cognitive psychology. Topics include: perception, attention, memory, imagery, concepts, language, problem solving, decision making, reasoning, and intelligence.

**Required Text**

Chun, M.M. & Most, S.B. (2021). *Cognition (First Edition)*. New York, NY: Oxford

**Course Evaluation**

Test 1 (25%): February 6

Test 2 (30%): March 13

Test 3 (30%): Final exam period

Writing Assignment (15%): April 12

All tests are non-cumulative and will be comprised of multiple-choice questions.

**Missed Tests and Late Paper**

It is your responsibility to write the tests and submit the paper on the day and time they are scheduled or due. If you cannot do so, you must contact me prior to the test time or paper deadline to inform me that you will not be able to write the test or submit the paper at the scheduled time and date so that we discuss an alternative.

Papers not received by the end of the day on April 12 will be penalized 5%. An additional 5% will be deducted from the grade of the paper every 24 hours after that time.

**Academic Dishonesty**

It is your responsibility to understand the Student Academic Code of Conduct (Policy 96.01). Please visit: <http://www.viu/policies/policies-index.asp>

## Lecture Schedule

Please note that the dates below may change to accommodate the natural progression of the course.

Date	Topic	Chapter
Jan 9	Introduction to Cognitive psychology	1
Jan 11 —16	Cognitive Neuroscience	2
Jan 18—23	Visual Perception and Object Recognition	3
Jan 25— 30	Mental Imagery	3
Feb 6	<b>Test 1</b>	
Feb 8—15	Attention	4
Feb 20—22	Study Week — No Classes	
Feb 27—Mar 1	Cognitive Control and Working Memory	5
Mar 1—Mar 6	Everyday Memory	6
Mar 6—8	Memory Systems	7
Mar 13	<b>Test 2</b>	
Mar 15—20	Language	8
Mar 22—27	Judgment and Decision Making	9
Mar 29 —Apr 3	Reasoning and Problem Solving and Creativity	10
Apr 10	Easter Monday — No Class	
Apr 12	Knowledge, Intelligence, and Cognitive Development	11
Dec Exam Period	<b>Test 3</b>	

### **Instructions for the “Thought Paper”**

You are required to submit a paper in which you express your thoughts, opinions, or criticisms of a topic covered in class. The purpose of this writing assignment is to demonstrate your ability to think critically about a topic germane to cognitive psychology. Because this is an informal reflection paper you can write in the first person. While empirical references that support your thoughts would be ideal, they are not required.

The paper should be written in proper APA format and should be 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced, one-inch margin), excluding a cover page (with an informative title) and a reference page.

All papers must be submitted in hard copy form. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Papers not received by the end of the day on Wednesday April 12 will be penalized 5%. An additional 5% will be deducted from the grade of the paper every 24 hours after that time.