

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Psychology**

PSYC 226: Cognitive Psychology

(3 credits)

Instructors: Julien Besle and Zahra Hussain

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Office: Jesup Hall 103E (JB), 103A (ZH)

Office hours:

JB: Tuesdays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm and Wednesdays 10:30 – 12:30 pm or by appointment.

ZH: Thursdays 3:30 – 5:00 pm or by appointment

Class times: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 – 11:45 am

1) Catalogue course description

An introduction to human cognitive processes, including perception, attention, memory, language, imagery, categorization, problem solving, reasoning and decision-making. These cognitive processes are examined with regard to human brain functioning. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSY101. Annually.*

2) Course description and learning outcomes

This course will introduce students to theory and research on human cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, reasoning and problem solving. You will learn how sensory input and complex events are represented and stored in the brain, and how this information is used in everyday behavior.

Student learning outcomes: At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1- Understand the study of cognition, including behavioral, computational and neuropsychological approaches (*PLOs 1b, 5c*)
- 2- Differentiate the major theories of cognition (*PLOs 2a, 5c*)
- 3- Interpret empirical data in cognitive psychology (*PLOs 3a, d, f*)
- 4- Appreciate the applications of cognitive psychology in daily life (*PLOs 1c, 5c*)
- 5- Demonstrate acquired skills in writing (*PLOs 5c, 6b*).

3) Resources Available to Students

Core text: PSYC226 mostly relies on one *required* core text:

Title: Cognition - Exploring the Science of the Mind, 7th Edition (2018)

Author: Daniel Reisberg

Publisher: W. W. Norton

Available in hard copy at the bookstore or as an eBook

(<https://digital.wwnorton.com/cognition7>)

Online resources:

ZAPS online experiments: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/cognition7>

There will be additional readings that will be announced on Moodle in due time

4) Tentative Schedule

Week		Chapter and Topic	Instructor	Grading
1	Jan 22 nd	The science of the mind (Ch1)	JB	
2	Jan 29 th	Neural Bases for Cognition (Ch2)	JB	
3	Feb 5 th	Vision (Ch3)	ZH	
4	Feb 12 th	Recognizing Objects (Ch4)	JB	
5	Feb 19 th	Paying Attention (Ch5)	JB	
6	Feb 26 th	Memory Acquisition and Working Memory (Ch6)	ZH	Mid-term Exam 1 (Mar 2 nd 2-4pm)
7	Mar 5 th	Acquisition and Retrieval (Ch7)	ZH	
8	Mar 12 th	Remembering Complex Events (Ch8)	ZH	
9	Mar 19 th	Concepts and Generic Knowledge (Ch9)	ZH/JB	
10	Mar 26 th	Language (Ch10)	JB	Mid-term Exam 2 (Mar 30 th 10am-12pm)
11	Apr 2 nd	Visual Knowledge (Ch11)	ZH	
12	Apr 9 th	Judgement and reasoning (Ch12)	ZH	Last withdrawal day: Apr 12 th
13	Apr 16 th	Problem Solving and Intelligence (Ch13)	JB	
14	Apr 23 th	Conscious and Unconscious Thought (Ch14)	JB	
15	TBA	Final exam		

5) Grading Criteria

Your final grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

Grading item	Type	Weighting
Two mid-term exams (held on Saturdays)	Multiple choice and/or open questions	28% × 2 = 56%
Final exam (partially cumulative)	Multiple choice and/or open questions	40%
ZAPS	Online experiments and demonstrations	4%

Grading will be criterion-based. The exact criteria for each grade will be provided in due course, as will the content and format of the exams and quizzes.

There *may* be additional optional credits for research participation.

6) Course Policy

I reserve the right to change the dates and the format of assignments or exams during the course if necessary but will provide advance notice.

Communication: Do not hesitate to contact me during office hours or by appointment with any question about the course or assignments and to clarify any material that you haven't grasped.

Emails and Moodle are core elements in our communication. Consequently, regular access to your AUB email account and familiarity with the internet are crucial if you are to keep up with the developments of this course. In addition, some instructions and announcements might be given only during class and it is your responsibility to make sure you are aware of those if you miss a session.

Class policy: I strongly encourage you to take notes during lectures. Studying only from the slides or the book is not sufficient to fully master the content of the course.

During class, **cell phones are not to be seen or heard, or they may be confiscated for an indefinite period.** The use of laptops is not allowed during class. Notes are to be taken by hand. If you wish to leave the class for any reason, even for a few minutes, you must take permission first.

Attendance: Students are to be in class at the latest 1 minute prior to class time. **Students who arrive late** (i.e. after class started) **will not be allowed in.** I will not take attendance. It is your responsibility to catch up with the material if you miss a class for any reason.

Assignments and exams: There will be no make-up mid-term exams. If the excuse for missing the exam is valid, the grades at the remaining exams will be re-weighted to make up for the missing grade. Missing the final exam will lead to a make-up exam **only** if the excuse is valid.

Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a grade of zero, unless a valid excuse is provided, in which case the overall assignment grade will be based on the other assignments. Any evidence that the assignment work has not been done by you will result in points being deducted from the final grade.

Valid reasons for missed exams or late assignments are limited to illnesses (medical or psychological). They will have to be documented by a note from the University Health Services or the Counseling Centre.

7) University Policies

Disability: AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a visible or invisible disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodation process, request a letter of accommodations from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) in the first few weeks of the semester: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, Ext. 3246; West Hall, 314. Letters of accommodations received late in the semester will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances.

Additional information:

<https://www.aub.edu.lb/sao/Documents/Process%20Map%20for%20Students.pdf>

<https://www.aub.edu.lb/SAO/Pages/Accessible-Education.aspx>

Academic integrity: Cheating at exams, plagiarism, presenting work you did not do, violating rules of proper academic conduct and other related matters will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to strict AUB policies. Failure to present your own original work will result in disciplinary

measures. Please refer to AUB Student Code of Conduct: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/fas/Documents/Students%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20and%20Forms%20for%20Processing%20Violations%20.pdf>, in particular section 1.1.

Non-Discrimination: AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix . To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Trudi Hodges at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb. An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com.