Introduction
PSY 200
Greg Francis
Lecture 01

Four great mysteries.

- Humans face four great mysteries about the universe
  - 1) Why is there something instead of nothing?
     - This is the domain of physics
     - Most of us are not going to understand the ideas
     - Leptogenesis

- 2) How did life form?
  - This question is addressed at the boundary between chemistry and biology

- 3) Why is there so much diversity of life?
  - This is the domain of biology
  - Evolution and natural selection answer this question

- 4) What is the basis of human intelligence and consciousness?
  - Cognitive psychology and neuroscience
  - Far from a complete answer
  - Lots of issues to discuss

Topics
- Discuss a sample of issues in cognitive psychology / cognitive neuroscience
- Try to relate cognitive psychology to stories you may have heard in the popular press
- Identify how the topics can help you to be a better person
Prof. Greg Francis

Topics

- For example
  - What’s the deal with left and right brains?
  - Why does everyone love Prozac?
  - Why telephone operators seem rude.
  - Why there is a gate at the first floor stairway in the Psychology building.
  - What to do if you are drunk while studying for an exam.
  - What is the plural of walkman?

Textbook

- There is no textbook
- Lecture notes are used instead
- If you want a book, borrow from a past class
- There are optional readings in the syllabus
  - Not for every subject

Lecture notes

- Downloadable from the class web page
  - Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format
  - Reduced form (6 to a page)

Lectures

- I will record the lecture and post the recording on the class website (details to be determined)
- Should a lecture be canceled, I will post a recording from a previous semester
- I encourage questions during lectures

Attendance

- Class attendance is mandatory
- At the start of class pick up a bubble sheet and enter your information
  - Provide an answer (any option) for item 1
  - The bubble sheets are only available for the first 10 minutes of the class period
- At the end of class drop off the bubble sheet at the front or back of the room
- Attendance counts as 10% of your class grade
- Everyone gets 6 misses before it impacts your grade

Course web page

- Syllabus on the web:
  - updates to the syllabus
  - Links to lecture recordings
  - Links to labs
  - Links to writing assignments
  - Study guides for the exams
  - Links to optional readings
  - Grades will be posted after the first exam
- The course does not use BrightSpace

PSY 200: Intro. to Cognitive Psychology
**Course outline**
- Neuroscience -- EXAM 1 (15%)
- Perception, Attention & Memory -- EXAM 2 (15%)
- Memory & Mental representation -- Exam 3 (15%)
- Language -- Exam 4 (15%)
- Reasoning
- Cumulative Final (15%)

**Exams**
- In class
- 25 multiple choice questions, 5 short-answer questions
- Detailed study guides are already on the class website

**Practice Exams**
- From Spring 2016
- Available on the class website

**CogLab**
- Labs are listed on the syllabus
- They must be completed by **1:00 pm** at the date indicated in the syllabus
  - else you get no credit
  - Better to do it the night before
- Since I wrote CogLab, you get access to the experiments for free
  - (a $50 value!)
- See handout for instructions on getting started (sent by email)
- Registration code is near the bottom of page 2
- **First lab is due at 1:00 pm on Wednesday!** (all times Eastern)

**Grading**
- Straight scale
  - 98% - 100%  A+
  - 93% - 97%  A
  - 90% - 92%  A-
  - 88% - 89%  B+
  - 83% - 87%  B
  - 80% - 82%  B-
  - 78% - 79%  C+
  - 73% - 77%  C
  - 70% - 72%  C-
  - 66% - 69%  D+
  - 63% - 67%  D
  - 60% - 62%  D-
  - 0% - 59%  F
- No extra credit
- No rounding up: 82.99 is a B-
Grading

- Previous semester’s grades (Spring 2020)

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- Last semester’s grades (Fall 2020)

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Instructor office hours

- During scheduled class lecture time
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
  - Or by appointment
  - PSYCH 3186
  - Email: gfrancis@purdue.edu

Teaching assistants

- Corey Nack
- Grade exams
- Keep track of grades
- Have office hours (PSYCH 3192)
  - Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 am – 12:15 pm

Attitude/Advice

- Print out the lectures and bring them to class. Take notes during class. Not everything is on the slides.
- Everything we talk about in class is important
- Get the “free” attendance points by attending every lecture
- Stay on top of the CogLab assignments, sometimes more than one lab is due for a given day
- Don’t wait till the last minute to do an assignment
- Work on the study guide every week, so the ideas/answers from lecture are fresh in your mind.
- This class is an introductory class, but that does not mean it is easy
  - It’s like Introduction to Physics or Introduction to Chemistry
  - Almost every other subtopic in psychology depends on the ideas in cognitive psychology
  - Everything is at least 10,000 times more complicated than what we discuss
  - If you don’t find a topic interesting, just wait a week

Next time

- Cognitive neuroscience
- The brain
- The modularity hypothesis
- CogLab on Brain asymmetry due!
- What’s the deal with left and right brains?