

**Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience**  
PSYC212-WA  
Fall 2020

Instructor: Robin Hopkins, PhD  
Email: rfhopkins@marybaldwin.edu  
I usually check my email throughout the day, and I will respond within 48 hours of receiving any emails. *Please include PSYC212WA in the subject line of any emails you send to me.*

Recommended text: Matlin, M. (2012) *Cognition* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). NJ: Wiley.  
ISBN: 978-1118148969

Additional resources: Journal articles, lecture slides and videos, and assignments will be available on canvas

**Course Objectives:** (1) Students will understand how psychologists study cognitive processes, and (2) what we currently know about them. (3) Students will have opportunities to develop their research and writing skills while following APA guidelines (4) Students will gain experience finding, reading, and thinking critically about scientific writing. (5) Students will make connections between research findings and experiences in their own lives.

**Learning Objective:** This course fulfills the research (R) requirement.

**Descriptions of Assignments:**

**PUREMEMs.** At the end of every lecture you watch, you should immediately go to the “assignments” section on blackboard, where you will complete an assignment called a PUREMEM (pronounced “pure mem”). PUREMEM officially stands for Practicing Unassisted Retrieval to Enhance Memory for Essential Material. If you prefer, you can think of PUREMEM as standing simply for “Pure Memory”, because PUREMEMs are intended to enhance your memory. On PUREMEMs, you will be asked some questions about the most important or essential material presented in the lecture you heard that day, and you will have to answer the questions *without looking at your notes*. This will allow you to practice retrieving the information from memory, as opposed to from your notes (hence the “unassisted” part of the idea). This retrieval practice is vital because, ultimately, you will want to be able to bring the information to mind without looking it up; that is the essence of learning. Memory research has produced compelling evidence that practicing retrieval of information is a key to remembering information over long periods of time and making the information come readily to mind (and we will discuss this research in class!). Each lecture, the previous PUREMEM answers will be displayed prior to lecture starting.

PUREMEMs will be due on Mondays at 11:59 PM EST every week, although I recommend you take them right after watching the associated lecture. Lectures will be posted during the course of each week. You will receive feedback on your answers and a

grade shortly after the deadline passes. If you miss a PUREMEM there will be no opportunity to make it up. You will simply receive a zero for any PUREMEM you miss.

**Participation Opportunities (POs).** Frequently, I will request for students to respond to questions either during the lecture or prior to class on blackboard, which should generally take less than five minutes to do. The class' responses will be used to demonstrate psychological phenomena that we discuss or to create an opportunity to engage with the topic being discussed. If you complete the questions by the deadline, you will receive full credit. If you do not answer all of the questions fail to submit your answers by the deadline, you will receive a zero for that participation opportunity.

Similar to PUREMEMs, POs are due by 11:59 PM EST on Mondays, and no late POs will be accepted.

**Article Discussion Prompts.** During each exam unit, you will be assigned to read 2-3 articles related to the topics we cover in lecture. For each article, you will submit a summary and the correct APA citation and reference for the article. You will also need to answer some discussion prompts provided in a discussion board which will ask you to critically evaluate the article, make connections, and consider remaining questions. The aims of the article discussion prompts are to have you practice reading articles for *content* while also *evaluating* it critically and making connections with other content and personal connections-which is what real researchers must do.

You will be required to submit your summary and APA citations/references to me and your answers to the discussion prompts to the discussion board. Your article discussion grade will come from submitting an accurate and sufficient summary along with proper APA citations and references, as well as posting thoughtful and complete answers to the discussion board on time. If you miss a discussion board or fail to submit your summary/citation/reference by the deadline, there will be no opportunity to earn back those points. Article discussion prompts will account for 10% of your grade.

**Research Assignment.** You will have a research assignment which will consist of a literature review on a cognitive topic. I will provide you with a handful of broad topic options, and after you submit your preferences to me, I will create topic groups that you will occasionally work with. You will turn in "check in" assignments to ensure you're progressing appropriately and so I can give you feedback early in the process, and we will have a virtual meeting at the end to discuss my feedback and any issues you might be having. These assignments and your preparedness for our meeting will account for 5% of your grade.

The research assignment prompt and grading rubric will be provided to you and *you will be required to "grade" yourself using the rubric before submitting your first draft.* Your first draft will account for 10% of your grade. I will give you feedback on your first draft and you will need to submit a revised final draft (15% of your grade).

I will accept late submissions for the first and final drafts up to two days after the deadline. However, submitting one day late will result in an automatic 5% deduction and submitting two days late will result in an automatic 10% deduction. Past two days, no late work will be accepted.

**Exams.** There will be three exams, which will consist of multiple choice/answer, fill in the blank, matching, short answer and/or essay questions. If you do not submit an exam by the deadline, you will receive a zero. All exams are closed-book. Exams will account for 30% of your grade.

**Cumulative Final Exam.** The same types of questions used on semester exams will be used on the cumulative final exam. The final is closed-book and will account for 20% of your grade.

**Extra Credit.** There will be several extra credit opportunities during the semester. *These will be the only extra credit opportunities that will be offered in this course, so do not ask for individualized or additional extra credit.* There will be an extra credit opportunity after each semester exam. You may (virtually) visit the writing center to work on your first draft and final draft for extra credit on your writing assignment. These opportunities will be listed on assignments and/or announced in class/via email.

### Grading:

<u>Grades will be determined by the following:</u>		<u>MBU Grading Scale (percentage):</u>
RA: Check-in assignments, individual meeting	5%	A = 93-100
RA: First draft + self-graded rubric	10%	A- = 90-92
RA: Final draft	15%	B+ = 87-89
POs	5%	B = 83-86
PUREMEMs	5%	B- = 80-82
Article discussions	10%	C+ = 77-79
Semester exams	30%	C = 73-76
Final exam	20%	C- = 70-72
		D+ = 67-69
		D = 63-66
		D- = 60-62

### Policies:

**Attendance.** At a *bare minimum*, you should check Canvas and your MBU email 2-3 times a week. If you anticipate needing to “miss class”, please let me know as soon as you are aware of the conflict so we can discuss any potential deadline extensions. *You and I may have different definitions of what an allowable reason to miss class is, so it is best to find out ahead of time if your conflict is a reasonable excuse to me.*

**Honor code.** You must observe the provisions of the Honor Code. Cooperative study and discussions are encouraged, but aids of any kind are not allowed during tests or quizzes. Until the instructor has informed you that everyone has taken a quiz or test, you are not to discuss it with anyone. You are allowed to discuss papers with each other, but each student must write his or her own. When writing papers, you must be careful not to plagiarize others’ work- use quotations if you are using direct words. If you do not cite properly, it is considered an act of

plagiarism and is a potential honor code violation.

Should I become aware of an Honor Code offense in this classroom, I will encourage the student(s) to self-report by e-mailing the Honor Council chairwoman or by filing an incident report at <https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?MaryBaldwinCollege>. If the student(s) does not self-report within 24 hours, I will submit the report myself.

If the Honor Code offense is related to a course assignment, the assignment will not receive an official grade until the Honor Council investigation (and, if necessary, hearing) is complete. I will not assess a grade penalty for an Honor Code infraction unless a student is found responsible by (or admits responsibility to) the Honor Council.