Objectives

Cognition and emotion affect behavior in a myriad of ways. The interactions of cognition and emotion are also quite complex. The primary purpose of this course is to provide an overview of research on the cognitive and affective bases of behavior. The course is also designed to foster critical thinking, writing, discussion, and presentation skills.

Readings

A compressed archive of PDFs of the readings is available at:

umdrive.memphis.edu/rkreuz/public/cognition&emotion/C&Earticles.zip

Evaluation

Each of you will lead a discussion of the readings for a given week during the term, and this will constitute 25% of your course grade.

You will also be expected to submit commentaries for each week’s readings (beginning with the January 29 class). The commentaries should be ~300 words in length and must be posted to the course’s blog site by noon on Monday before the day before class). The commentaries will constitute 50% of your course grade. Students enrolled at the 8000 level will be expected to submit commentaries appropriate to doctoral-level study in comparison to those enrolled at the 7000 level.

Attendance at all lectures and participation in all discussions is required and will count as 25% of your course grade. If you know in advance that you must miss a class (e.g., you’re attending a conference or an interview), please inform me beforehand. More than one unexcused absence will have a negative impact on your course grade.

Blog site

Commentaries should be submitted to:

http://blogs.memphis.edu/7407cognitionandemotion

You can access this Web site using your UUID and password. Your first assignment in the course will be to post a comment to my first posting on the blog site.
### Class dates, topics, and readings

**Tuesday, 15 January**

1. **Introduction**
   - course format • topics • resources

2. **Lecture: Background and context**
   - defining cognition and affect • dualistic vs. functional theories • Duchenne and Darwin

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**Tuesday, 22 January**

1. **Lecture: Quantifying cognition and affect**
   - reaction time • accuracy • scaled ratings • eye and mouse movements • evoked potentials PET and fMRI • ERPs • behavioral • experiential • physiological

2. **Lecture: Basic emotions**
   - categorical theories • dimensional theories • hybrid models • appraisal theories • constructivist theories

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**Tuesday, 29 January**

1. **Discussion: Basic emotions** to be led by Jennifer Yeoward

2. **Lecture: One system or two?**
   - James-Lange • Cannon-Bard • Schachter & Singer • Zajonc • Lazarus

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**Tuesday, 05 February**

1. **Discussion: One system or two?** to be led by Jamison Bottomley

2. **Lecture: Biological basis of cognition and emotion**
   - brain anatomy and terminology • coordinate systems • structures and circuits • neurotransmitters


**Tuesday, 12 February**

(1) **Discussion: Biological basis of cognition and emotion** to be led by Kim Klages

(2) **Lecture: Emotion regulation**
defense mechanisms • cognitive dissonance theory • process model • emotional intelligence


**Tuesday, 19 February**

(1) **Discussion: Emotion regulation** to be led by Whitney Shuman

(2) **Lecture: Emotion and attention**
attentional flow • attentional lapses • change blindness • attentional blink • Stroop effects • binding • feature integration theory


**Tuesday, 26 February** *(room change: McCord Hall room 207)*

(1) **Discussion: Emotion and attention** to be led by Caroline Shunk

(2) **Lecture: Creating affect in the laboratory**
ethics • concept instantiation • induction techniques • encoding specificity • calculating sensitivity


Tuesday, 05 March

Independent fieldwork: cognition & emotion  Spring Break

Tuesday, 12 March

(1) Discussion: Creating affect in the lab to be led by Laura Schwartz

(2) Lecture: Affect and memory I
lexical decision task • priming • factors influencing response times • word recognition models • autobiographical memory


Tuesday, 19 March

(1) Discussion: Affect and memory (I) to be led by Ali Fuss & Parker Rhomberg

(2) Lecture: Affect and memory II
flashbulb memory • reminiscence bump • childhood amnesia


Tuesday, 26 March

(1) Discussion: Affect and memory (II) to be led by Lauren Schaefer

(2) Lecture: Affect and language
Linguistic relativity • Whorf • language and color • conceptual metaphors • idioms


**Tuesday, 02 April**

1. **Discussion: Affect and language** to be led by Caché Archer
2. **Lecture: Affect, cognition, and decision making**
   rational choice models • Kahneman & Tversky • heuristics and the biases they cause • malleability of judgments


**Tuesday, 09 April**

1. **Discussion: Affect, cognition, and decision making** to be led by Christy New
2. **Lecture: Conscious awareness, cognition, and affect**
   consciousness & creativity • incubation effects • issues with verbal self-reports as data • subliminal perception


**Tuesday, 16 April**

1. **Discussion: Conscious awareness, cognition, and affect** to be led by Meng Cao
2. **Lecture: Cognition, emotion, and development**
   theory of mind • child language assessment • transcription


**Tuesday, 23 April**

(1) **Discussion: Cognition, emotion, and development** to be led by Robert Washington

(2) **Discussion: Wrap up** to be led by Roger Kreuz

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**Some Notes on Being the Discussion Leader**

You should take your responsibilities as discussion leader seriously. In particular, you should be well prepared to summarize the issues at hand, and to lead an in-depth exploration of the articles and their implications for cognition and emotion.

I would advise you to read the papers you'll be responsible for well in advance. You may also want to look at some of the articles that the authors cite, or later papers on the topic. Of course, you should feel free to come and talk to me about any questions or concerns. (You'll also have the incredibly insightful commentaries of your classmates to help you.)

You should begin the discussion by briefly summarizing the first article. For the summary, you can use the classroom’s projector if you wish, although this is by no means required. For the discussion, you may want to ask your classmates to expand on what they wrote in their commentaries, or address conflicting viewpoints expressed in the commentaries. Please keep track of the time and try to shift over to the second paper about halfway through the class.
Some Notes on the Commentaries (Empirical papers)

An important skill to develop is how to critically but fairly evaluate an empirical article, and then distill your thoughts into a coherent written report. To help you learn how to do this, an important part of this course will be the writing and sharing of commentaries.

Your commentaries should not be a summary of the paper’s methodology and results: that’s why the authors wrote an abstract. Instead, the commentary should focus on questions like the following:

**General**
- Does the article explore an important issue?
- Do the authors employ terms and concepts without explaining them?
- Was there anything that was confusing or ambiguous?
- Is the paper well written and clearly organized?

**Procedural**
- Is the methodology appropriate for the questions being investigated?
- Is there a different or better methodology that could have been employed?
- Are there any issues with the stimuli or manipulations?

**Data and statistics**
- Are the statistics appropriate for the data?
- Anything noteworthy about the participants (e.g., small sample size, skewed gender)?
- Did the authors use tables and figures appropriately? Redundantly? Haphazardly? Not at all?
- Are there limitations to generalizability?

**The Big picture**
- Do the experiments have ecological validity?
- Do the authors’ conclusions follow from the evidence presented? Are you convinced?
- Do the authors over-reach in their interpretations of the evidence?
- Are there alternative explanations for the results?
- Do the authors tell a good story?

These are just starting points — feel free to address other issues that you feel are important.
Q: I've written everything I can think of, but my commentary is only 237 words long. Am I a bad person?

A: Probably not. The 300-word length is simply a guideline; don’t be too obsessed with this number. Some of your commentaries will be shorter, and others will be longer. However, if you’re routinely writing 600-word analyses, you should try to be more succinct. And if you’re consistently submitting 200-word commentaries, I’ll probably notice (and not be impressed).

Q: Do I need to give both papers equal attention in my commentaries?

A: Nope. For whatever reason, you may have more to say about one paper than another. However, you should address at least some issues in each article.

Q: My pet dog/cat/weasel just died, and I’m pretty broken up. Is it possible to skip the assignment if I can’t bring myself to write?

A: Yes, I’ll allow each student to skip one commentary assignment during the term. However, if you skip more than that, you’ll need to throw yourself on the mercy of the court. Keep in mind that I take the assignments pretty seriously, so don’t expect much sympathy.

Q: I was too hung over to write, so I didn’t upload my commentary until midnight (variants: my WiFi wasn’t working, my hard drive died, the dog ate my paper).

A: I expect graduate students to be responsible, but sometimes life does hand you lemons. Please do everything you can to submit the commentaries on time. It makes the discussion leaders’ job easier if they have your thoughts in a timely manner. And if any of you are consistently late, you’ll be hearing from me.

Q: Will I get feedback on my commentaries from you?

A: Although I will read all the commentaries carefully, I’ll only provide feedback if I spot problems (so, no news is good news).

Q: Do I need to write a commentary for the day when I’m the discussion leader?

A: Nope—you’re off the hook for that class. That’s one of the perks of being the discussion leader.