

PSY301

# Cognitive and Perceptual Psychology

School: School of Health - Psychology

2026 Trimester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast  
UniSC Moreton BayBLENDED  
LEARNING

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

*Please go to [unisc.edu.au](http://unisc.edu.au) for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.*

## 1. What is this course about?

### 1.1. Description

This course provides an overview of human perception and cognition. The study of perceptual psychology aims to understand how information is acquired from the environment through sensory organs. The study of cognitive psychology looks at the storage, manipulation, and retrieval of information. Students will conduct core perceptual and cognitive experiments and analyse and interpret the findings of the research.

We recommend students purchase the ebook bundle of Goldstein's Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience 5th Edition (WITH MindTap + CogLab).

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Whole of cohort weekly workshop	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 2</b> – Small group workshop in computer lab	1hr	Week 2	11 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

Introduction to the course & cognitive psychology

Perception & pattern recognition

Attention

Short term & working memory

Long term memory 1

Long term memory 2

Different types of memory

Categorisation

Imagery

Language

Problem solving & creativity

Reasoning & decision making

Applied / contemporary guest talks

## 2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

## 3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

## 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Understand core and advanced research paradigms, theories and concepts in cognitive and perceptual psychology	Knowledgeable
2 Critically evaluate research in cognitive and perceptual psychology.	Creative and critical thinker
3 Apply scientific knowledge to everyday cognitive and perceptual functioning.	Empowered Ethical
4 Present a clear, coherent and independent exposition of knowledge and ideas.	Empowered

## 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

### 5.1. Pre-requisites

PSY200 and PSY201 OR PSY207

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

The Task 1 formative mid-trimester quiz will serve as an early indicator of understanding of key course content, and gaps in conceptual and theoretical knowledge that may need to be addressed to improve performance in Tasks 2 and 3, and overall, in this course.

Assistance will be provided in workshops with regard to planning the major research report for Task 2.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	0%	1 hour	Refer to Format	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Report	Individual	50%	2000-2200 words	Refer to Format	Online Submission
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Submission

**All - Assessment Task 1:** Mid-Trimester Quiz (Formative)

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of this formative ungraded quiz is to provide you with the opportunity to examine your understanding of foundational content covered in the first half of the course.										
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Quiz/zes										
<b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b>											
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Online submission, available between Weeks 5-7. Refer to Canvas for release details.										
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Accuracy of answers</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Ability to apply and critically evaluate content</td> <td>1 2 3 4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Accuracy of answers	1	2	Ability to apply and critically evaluate content	1 2 3 4	
No.		Learning Outcome assessed									
1	Accuracy of answers	1									
2	Ability to apply and critically evaluate content	1 2 3 4									
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Problem solving										

### All - Assessment Task 2: Major Research Report

<b>GOAL:</b>	The purpose of this laboratory report is to increase your understanding of key research methods and techniques in cognitive psychology and application of theory to a contemporary issue in the literature.																
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Report																
<b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b>																	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	The report will be based on an experiment conducted in class/or data provided for an experimental study. You will analyse the research data and write up your findings in a research report. Details to assist you with the analysis and writing up the report will be provided in the learning materials and workshops. Report to be submitted online via CADMUS.  This assessment will likely be due in weeks 10-12. Refer to Canvas at trimester commencement for exact date.																
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2	Critical thinking	1 2															
3	Correct APA style and scholarly writing style	4															
4	Quality of research	1 2 3 4															
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>																	

### All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

<b>GOAL:</b>	The exam will assess your knowledge of the course content.							
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Examination - Centrally Scheduled							
<b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b>								
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Submission online via Cadmus. Multiple choice and short answer questions							
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No.		Learning Outcome assessed						
1	Accuracy of answers	1 2 3 4						
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Problem solving							

## 7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the [Library](#) at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	E. B. Goldstein & R.G. Hale	2025	Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience. The online learning platform MindTap is recommended as it includes both the e-Text (Cengage International Edition) and CogLab	6th ed	Cengage

### 8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

### 10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

#### **Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment**

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

- Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
- From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
- More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

#### 10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

#### 10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

#### 10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)