Course Information

Course Description
This course is designed to cover in breadth the field of cognition in psychology. The course is a focused introduction to the field and will emphasize basic knowledge and applications as a result.

Prerequisite Skills
Due to the hCoV-19 pandemic, it is essential that students have good computer literacy as an end user, including the use of Blackboard and Top Hat, video players, streaming software, and word processors.

Student Learning Outcomes
The follow learning outcomes are expected:

- Students will be able to describe, compare and contrast core theories in motivation
- Students will be able to critically evaluate fictional and non-fictional portrayals of human behavior within the context of core motivation theories
- Students will be able to identify ways in which the course content can be applied to their own life circumstances to affect positive change
CLASSROOM MASK POLICY

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory *Facial Covering Policy* to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are **REQUIRED** to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with this Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.
**Required Texts and Materials**

**Top Hat**
We will be using Top Hat Pro ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) for class participation. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. You can visit the Top Hat Overview ([https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Getting-Started-with-Top-Hat](https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Getting-Started-with-Top-Hat)) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as provides a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. Note: our course Join Code and relevant URLs are available on Blackboard.

Top Hat Pro may require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: [www.tophat.com/pricing](http://www.tophat.com/pricing).

**Grading**

Students will be measured according to their performance on the following criteria:

- **Examinations (E).** There will be no traditional examinations in the course. Instead, more frequent and smaller “test-like” assignments will be offered that will include objective (i.e., multiple-choice) and narrative (i.e., short answer) questions.

- **Application Papers (P).** Students shall construct a series of papers over the term. Most will require identification of cognition as it occurs in movies, while at least one assignment will apply the course material to current events (instructions will be provided for each assignment). The last paper assignment will be a proxy for a final exam.

- **Course Engagement (CE).** I will be tracking course participation through attendance in class (as measured through Top Hat) and punctual completion of assignments and papers. Each student will begin with maximum points on this measure with deductions applied for missteps beyond a certain minimum expectation:
  - Expected class attendance: 80%
  - Expected punctual completion of assignments: 87.5%

- In the event that an outbreak of hCoV-19 occurs on campus that dramatically affects this measure, I will adjust it in the fairest manner possible for all students.
Grade Calculation Formula
0.30(E) + 0.25(CE) + 0.45(P)

Grading System
The following grading scale is in use for this course (rounding is done to the nearest integer according to standard mathematical rules):

- A = > 90
- B = 80 - 89
- C = 70 - 79
- D = 56 - 69
- F = < 56

Additional criteria governing course grades are as follows:

- You must have a non-zero grade for at least 50% of the available assignments and exams. Failure to meet this criterion shall result in automatic failure of the course.
- You must pass (x > 55%) ALL PORTIONS of the course individually. This means your calculated averages on assignments, papers, and course engagement in isolation, NOT together. Failure to meet these criteria shall result in course failure.

Note that the instructor has the authority to suspend these rules in individual cases where circumstances may dictate. This will ALWAYS be done to ensure that the student receives the fairest grade possible and will NEVER be used to punish students.

Submitting Papers
All papers are submitted through the Assignments tool in Blackboard. Sometimes, things happen with technology. Use the following FAQ to help.

Q: Can I paste text into Blackboard as my submission?
A: NO. Paper submissions MUST be Word or PDF. I will NOT grade pasted text.

Q: What do I do if I submit the wrong document?
A: Contact me via email to notify me with the correct document attached.

Q: What do I do if you tell me that my submission failed?
A: If this happens, you will receive a temporary grade of “0” and a note from me that your paper was not readable. Resubmit the assignment via email as soon as possible.
Q: What if Blackboard goes down and I can’t submit?
A: First, contact the Service Center at 942.2911 to inquire about the outage. Open a ticket if necessary. Then, submit as soon as your access is restored.

Q: Can I share a document with you through Google Docs?
A: NO. If you do this, I cannot read it. If this happens, you will receive a temporary grade of “0” and a note from me that your paper was not readable. Resubmit the assignment via email as soon as possible but there will be a letter grade penalty.

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

ASSIGNMENTS/PAPERS

Because these are distance-based assignments this term, there is no time-limited make-up policy. If you are late in submitting your work, it will eventually begin to count against your Course Engagement score. Late in the semester, I will identify an “assignment cut-off date.” If any assignments are unfinished by that date, they will become permanently unavailable.

COURSE ENGAGEMENT

Attendance becomes more critical because we are losing some of the “face-to-face” integrity of the course due to the restructuring of the instructional setting. Thus, it is imperative that you communicate with the professor if you are unable to attend. Absences that are undocumented will apply against the Course Engagement score. If you cannot attend physically, you may attend virtually at any time.

Things NOT To Do

⇒ Cell phones must be turned off or to a silent setting; texting is disallowed.
⇒ Persistent and excessive lateness will not be tolerated. If you consistently arrive to class late, I will ask for a meeting with you.
⇒ The use of personal listening devices during class will not be tolerated.
⇒ While I encourage an open classroom regarding communication, student discussions that become disruptive to the class will not be allowed.
Communication
You may reach me via telephone or email. Email is the preferred communication method. Because I also have administrative responsibilities, it is best to schedule an in-person meeting rather than to rely on office hours.
General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112
Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact me if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. I will do everything I can to help you, but that may mean advising you to try the course again another time. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

If I detect that two papers are the same, both students will receive no credit for that assignment.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form
Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171). For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences. Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

This document constitutes an explicit agreement between the course instructor and the students enrolled in the course. All issues pertaining to the conduct of the course shall be governed by this document, and where it is silent, the course instructor’s discretion shall be binding. If any rules, guidelines, and/or restrictions must be changed during the term, the instructor may do so and will communicate those changes to all students through Blackboard.
## Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-29 January</td>
<td>Module 1 – Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-5 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-12 February</td>
<td>Module 2 – Attention and Perception</td>
<td>Paper 1</td>
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<td>15-19 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-26 February</td>
<td>Module 3 – Memory</td>
<td>Paper 2</td>
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<td>1-5 March</td>
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<td>8-12 March</td>
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<td>15-19 March</td>
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<td>22-26 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 March – 2 April</td>
<td>Module 4 – Concepts and Language</td>
<td>Paper 3</td>
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<td>5-9 April</td>
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<td>12-16 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-23 April</td>
<td>Module 5 – Reasoning and Applied Cognition</td>
<td>Paper 4</td>
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<td>26-30 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-7 May</td>
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<td>Paper 5 (counts as final)</td>
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*Group 1 will always meet on Wednesdays. Group 2 will always meet on Fridays. You MUST sit in the same seat every day. Mondays will be virtual for all students.*