

# Cognitive Science 101C

Language & Reasoning

<http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~coulson/Courses/101c/>

## Introductions

- Instructor
  - Dr. Coulson
  - [coulson@cogsci.ucsd.edu](mailto:coulson@cogsci.ucsd.edu)
  - Office Hours in CSB161
    - Mon 11:30am -12:30pm
    - Fri 11:30am – 12:30pm
- TAs
  - Ben
  - Jenny
  - Kensy

## Goals and Objectives



- Learn about the *formalisms* cognitive scientists have used to study language and reasoning
  - Frames and Schemas
  - Logic
  - Probability Theory
  - Grammar
- Learn some of the many *facts* cognitive scientists have discovered about how people think and talk

## Topics

- Reasoning: March 31 – May 2
  - Knowledge Representation
  - Deductive Reasoning and Mental Models
  - Statistical Reasoning and Decision Making
  - Induction and Analogy
  - Metaphor and Blends
- Language: May 7 – June
  - Grammar
  - Talking
  - Speech Perception
  - Reading
  - Language and Reasoning

## Required Reading

- Textbook
  - *Cognitive Psychology*
  - Medin, Ross, & Markman
  - Used last quarter in COGS 101b
- Online Readings
  - Check the course website



## Course Requirements

- Problem Sets
  - Short answer and essay questions
  - Designed to help you understand course material
  - 5 total, together worth 50% of your grade
  - Discuss in section, turn in during lecture
- Midterms
  - **Format:** Short Answer and Essay Questions
    - Similar to problem sets
    - Covers material outlined in study questions
  - Monday May 5
  - Friday June 6 (comprehensive)
- Attendance
  - Lecture
  - Section
- Experiment Participation (Experimentrix)
  - 2 hours total (or 2 summaries) required
  - Try to “turn in” at least 1 hour at each midterm
- Final Paper (5 pages)
  - Monday June 9 by 10 am
  - No late papers (early okay)
  - Place in Coulson’s mailbox in the Cognitive Science Building
  - Did I mention, no late papers?

## Grading

2 Midterms	2 x 20% = 40%
5 Problem Sets	5 x 10% = 50%
1 Final Paper	1 x 10% = 10%
<i>Total</i>	40+50+10= 100%

## Straight Scales and Happy Curves

- 90-100% A
  - 80-89% B
  - 70-79% C
  - 60-69% D
  - <60% F
- If the straight scale seems to harsh, we will employ a “happy curve” to improve your grades
  - The happy curve never results in a lower grade than we would obtain from the straight scale

## On-Line Resources

- Course Web Page
    - Syllabus
    - PDF version of slides
    - Links to online readings
    - Links to assignments
    - Links to Study Questions (hopefully)
- <http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~coulson/Courses/101c/>