

Summary of Student Evaluations
Psychology 2014: Cognitive Psychology
The George Washington University
Spring 2013

At GWU, Cognitive Psychology is a sophomore-level “gateway” course that fulfills one of the major requirements for the undergraduate psychology degree. At the end of the semester, students answer Likert scale questions about the course, instructor, and teaching assistant. Thirty-three of the 69 students completed formal evaluations of Cognitive Psychology in Spring 2013. The table below reports the mean and standard deviation for these evaluations. The mean rating for all gateway psychology courses GWU in Spring 2013 have been provided for comparison.

Question	Mean	Std Dev	Dept. Mean
For the questions below, scores range from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)			
Course material well-organized	4.36	1.19	4.16
Course readings useful for knowledge	3.70	1.33	3.82
Course added knowledge of subject matter	4.21	1.22	4.15
Course increased knowledge research methods	3.36	1.19	3.27
Course improved critical thinking skills	3.39	1.25	3.41
Course challenging intellectually	3.85	1.25	3.75
Instructor approachable	4.39	1.27	4.22
Instructor accessible/responsive	4.24	1.28	4.09
Instructor effective presentation	4.06	1.34	3.71
Instructor encouraged student participation	4.36	1.19	4.09
Instructor demonstrated respect towards students	4.45	1.20	4.41
For the questions below, scores range from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)			
Overall Course Rating	4.18	0.88	3.81
Overall Instructor Rating	4.42	0.79	3.95

Additionally, the instructor solicited student comments on the course via an optional online survey. Eleven of the students completed this online commentary and selected written comments from this are shown below:

“The many different aspects of the course (book, lecture, CogLab, blog, articles) complimented each other well. Clearly as a cognitive psychologist you know the best ways to ensure memory of the topics.”

“I enjoyed the material and I felt like your teaching style and energy really facilitated learning of what with other professors might have been some really difficult material.”

“Even though cognitive side to psychology is not a strong interest of mine, you made the course engaging and one in which I really enjoyed.”

“It was great how clear your instructions were for all of the assignments.”

“I think maybe your background with middle schoolers helped you break thing down to the necessary level for us; just because we’re in college doesn’t mean that we don’t get confused!”