

CrCrTh 651, Advanced Cognitive Psychology, Fall 2017
Students' Synthetic Statements, from the Final Course Evaluation

The synthetic statement is the fourth question on formal course evaluations for the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program. See questions 1-3 listed on <http://bit.ly/CCTEval>

Question 4: "Building on your comments from Questions 1-3 in the formal evaluation, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.) Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses. Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes, the session activities, and the use of mentors to support the learning in the course."

Below are the Synthetic Statements from the respondents who gave permission for these comments to be shared on the web.

- You will get what you give in this course. Students who are able to thoughtfully immerse themselves in the various course processes will find themselves with a very strong foundation in advance cognitive psychology. It is the integration into everyday life that offered me the most benefit.
- If you are taking this course I truly believe it is important to research on your own ideas of psychology. Psychology is an efficient tool (if you know enough about it) that can help you with daily life's activities. These activities can be work or school related, and even related to your friends and families and making interactions with all people in these categories to improve your life and the life of others. This course I almost wish was longer because I was so interested in all the concepts before I even took this course, during this course and now. I am so sad to see this course come and go. My recommendation, don't take on a huge workload (if possible) while taking this course. This course is so vital to your life, lifestyle, the people around you, what you want to do, what you don't and everyone and everything important to you. Studying the mind and how it adapts to different situations is a lead in to an extraordinary life.
- My personal goals were to do as well as I can in absorbing the information, improve my critical thinking and writing skills and to see for myself if Psychology is a field that I might consider in the future in my PhD studies. I had taken psychology and sociology courses as an undergrad, so it was marvellous to dive back in again. I think it is excellent that it is a required course for CCT. That all said, I definitely achieved my goals and in all honesty it would be nice to take this course again because there was so much material each week that it is nearly impossible to take it all in. We were inundated each week with new terms and findings and thus maintaining a guiding principles journal really helped me to discover what I felt were the highlights and thus created a way to personalise the contents. The course actually got better and better as the weekly readings became more fascinating and as the weeks quickly rolled on. It was a great experience working in our small groups three times during the course whereby we created, developed and tested hypotheses. The whole course experience was very impactful as I know I will take a lot of what I learned with me for the rest of my life. Jeremy is an excellent instructor and the online classes, although very late at night (European time), he kept each session stimulating, fluid and I think the way we connected as a class - with students from all

around the world - is a big testimony to his talent as a class act teacher. This course was one of my favourite out of the whole CCT experience.

- CCT 651 is a low threat environment where students learn about and test cognitive processes. Students have the chance to participate in weekly, monthly, and semester-based projects that will develop their understanding of cognition in humans.
- This class approaching cognitive psychology with a variety of group based discussion formats, activities, small group project based learning and individual research. The multiple approaches allow students to have a broad overview of the topic and the chance to dig into specific areas of interest.
- Like most things, online courses are what you make of them. I get the most out of these courses when I apply the assignments and readings directly to my activities at work. It felt like a quality graduate-level course, both in terms of the readings and class activities. I really liked the nature of the assignments in the course, especially in regards to the final project. I felt as if the assignments were productive uses of my time and not just a way of merely testing my learning and ensuring my participation. If you don't have any experience in this area, don't let the "Advanced" part of the course title scare you away, as this course serves as an in-depth introduction to the topics in this field. I would recommend that prospective students come into this course curious, thinking about questions that they want answered.
- This course explores human cognitive abilities including topics such as attention, memory, and knowledge. Within the hybrid course format, small group and whole class meetings are used to help students gain deeper understanding of the course materials as well as new perspectives through dialogue. Students also participate in experiments to test hypotheses individually and in groups. Weekly reading and writing serve to encourage students to make personal connection to information that is presented. Each student is also required to research a topic of choice that relates to a course concept to be discussed in an interview format at the close of the semester.