WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

Thinking about taking Introduction to Cognitive Psychology as an online course?

Here's some information about the course to help you decide.

Course description:

This course will focus on the diverse field of Cognitive Psychology. Cognition including how we learn, remember and forget and how our expectations and the context of events affect our comprehension, interpretation and memory of those events. The study of cognition also includes the study of creativity, problem solving, decision making, language and communication. This course will cover both theory and empirical research findings, and will include applications of theory and research to such fields as education, business and law.

Course Objectives:

✓ To learn about the broad field of Cognitive Psychology and its content areas, history and origins.

✓ To appreciate the role of cognitive psychology in every day life

✓ To integrate course content with personal experience

✓ To develop the skills necessary to continue life long learning

Required text:

Goldstein, E. B. (2011). Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience (3rd). Cengage Learning and either **CogLab2 Online Manual** with **CD or access code**

Students have the option of buying or RENTING the needed materials directly from the publisher (at www.cengage.com/highered, or buying them from the WSC Bookstore or other online site. If you buy a used book, make sure it is the 3rd edition.

You should also be able to find used copies of the book online at various sites or perhaps even in the University bookstore. Be aware that our bookstore will have limited copies of the text. Look around as prices vary.

Course Format and Instructor Availability:
This is an asynchronous class, meaning that both students and the instructor will sign in to the course pages on their own schedules and work independently of each other, but there are certain minimum requirements to insure that this course is a good choice for you.
1. Have stable internet access, intermediate-level computer skills, and familiarity with the PLATO course environment. Inability to access the site, navigate the pages, or open files will not excuse you for missed or late assignments.

2. Complete all the assigned readings, assignments and quizzes.

3. Have basic skills in Microsoft Word (or a similar word processor)

4. Check in to the course several times per unit and post responses to the discussion topics for the week. Students who complete all of their postings on the same day, or who do not post until the end of the unit, will receive lower grades.

5. Start each unit's assignments towards the beginning of the unit, so as to work out any problems (technological or otherwise) as early as possible.

6. Contact the instructor if they have any difficulties.

I will generally check the course page every day, usually in the morning, and respond to e-mail at that time. You can almost always expect a response to e-mail within 48 hours.
The content of the course will be presented online in weekly modules. Each module will generally correspond to the chapter(s) in the text. Along with reading assignments from the text, each module may include supplementary reading, weekly projects, chapter quizzes and discussion questions.

Topics to be covered:
An introduction to the Cognitive Psychology
Cognitive Neuroscience
Perception
Is there more than one type of memory?
Short-Term and Working Memory
Long-Term Memory—Structure
Long-Term Memory—Encoding and Retrieval
How can we improve our memories?

Grading:

Exams (~3) 50 points
Assignments (~6) 50 points
Discussion posts (~12) 50 points
Reaction Papers (~5) 25 points
175 total points available

Instructor and contact information:
Professor Susan E. Dutch, PhD
Department of Psychology
Westfield State University
Westfield, MA 01086
413-572-5346
sdutch@westfield.ma.edu

But, I've never taken an online course before. Should I take this online course?

Online courses are great but….they're not for everyone. Before you sign-up for the course you should do some reflection on what kind of learner you are. To help you decide I would suggest taking a look at the resources available at the online login site-
http://www.westfield.ma.edu/plato/?page_id=41.
Before logging in, look at the three links on the far left side under the heading- Is Online Learning for Me? Take the Self Evaluation and read the two links Successful Online Student, and About Online Learning before you make your decision. Also, as something to take into consideration- this will be a course with very specific deadlines. If deadlines are not your thing, than this is not the course for you. Good luck and I hope to "see" you online.