Syllabus: Psych 2H03 and 2H03E: Human Learning and Cognition
Winter Session, January to April, 2004

Instructor: Jan 5th - Feb 24th
Dr. David Shore
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Instructor: Feb 24th - April 6th
Dr. Lee R. Brooks
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bro2h3@psychology.mcmaster.ca

Psychology 2H03 email account (to be connected on Jan. 5th):
help2h3@psychology.mcmaster.ca

All email communication should be directed to these specific accounts and should come from your McMaster account (this is to minimize spam). Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, the email will be sent to your university account. You should monitor this account regularly.

Course Objectives and Content:
In this course you will be introduced to the major themes in the field of Cognitive Psychology. A comprehensive overview of the field will be provided, including perception, pattern recognition, memory, mental imagery, concept formation, language, problem solving, reasoning and decision making. Refer to the Psych 2h03 web pages for details about course content and weekly readings.

Required Text: Reisberg, D. (2001). Cognition: Exploring the Science of Mind, 2nd Ed. Chapters that will receive full consideration are 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Chapters 1 (pp.13-20) and 2 will be covered briefly in lecture.

Exams and grading:
Exams will cover lecture material and textbook material equally. It is important to note that lectures will often present material that is not covered in the textbook and you will also be responsible for material in assigned chapters that is not covered in lectures. There will be four exams: three 50 minute midterm exams and one 3 hour final exam held during the exam period. The final will have two components. The first will cover the final 1/4 of the course material and the second will be a cumulative across the entire course. Thus, there will be five (5) evaluative components. The lowest of these 5 will be dropped making each of the 4 remaining grades worth 22.5%. A passing average must be achieved on the examinations to pass the course.

The exam grades thus determined will constitute 90% of the total grade. The web assignment will provide 6% of the total grade (see notes below). The final 4% will come from the laboratory assignment (see notes below). Instructors reserve the right to alter the format of the exams and/or assignments if the need should arise.

The day and the night sections of this course will have common examinations. The term exams for both sections will be given on the Tuesday afternoons listed below, during the times reserved in the calendar for tutorial session (5:30 - 6:30).

Exam Dates and Assessment Scheme (refer to the Lecture Outlines on the web page for reading due dates):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>The first post and response due (on a topic from Ch.3 or introductory material) 1.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27 (Tuesday, 5:30 -</td>
<td>Exam One (Chapters 1 (pg 13-20) 3, 4 and)</td>
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**Web Assignment:**

The web assignment involves accessing the course web-based discussion group where you will find course-related topics posted. A link to the discussion group can be found on the course web page. There will be several topics based on material from lectures and from each chapter in your textbook. The purpose of the web-based discussion group is to foster discussion among students and TAs about course material and to assist you in studying the course material. The discussion topics will relate to the questions you will see on exams, so it is well worth your while to involve yourself in the online discussions. The questions are broader than we can ask on examinations and provide another approach to learning the course material. You will be responsible for posting a minimum of 4 original messages (1 pt apiece) over the course of the term and four responses to other students' messages (1/2 point apiece). The posts must address the specific chapters specified above. Each post must engage the subject material in a meaningful way. Your messages do not have to be the correct answer, but it must be clear that you have put some thought into the topic. Each original post must be unique -- they must not be the same as previously posted messages by you or other students. Obviously, the requirement to have unique posts means that it is advantageous for you to start on the assignments early in a section. Each post and response will be worth 1.5%; there will be no part marks and no way to make up for a late post; if your post is late the grade for that 1.5% will be zero, with no exceptions. Please refer to other important information about the web assignment and its relevance to exam questions.

**Laboratory Assignment:**

The laboratory assignment consists of participation in one experiment in cognitive psychology to learn the procedures and experience the process first hand. Experiments will be posted in the Psychology Building, on the bulletin board on the first floor. The assignment will be graded out of 4 points. Two points will be awarded for participating and 2 points will be based on your answer to a question on the final about the experiment you participated in. At the end of the experiment you will receive a "debriefing" sheet that you can use to review the experiment when you are studying for the final. A penalty of 2 percentage points will be applied if you sign up for an experiment but do not show up (without adequate notice). This means that your laboratory grade can only be the amount you earn on the question about the experiment that you did participate in. You may opt to participate without producing data, which involves a walk-through of the experiment. Details about the laboratory assignment and the walk-through option are described in detail on the Laboratory Assignment web page.

**Grading Policy:** The instructors reserve the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course. Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are

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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>The second post and response due (on a topic from Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7)</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
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<td>February 24 (Tuesday, 5:30-6:30)</td>
<td><strong>Exam Two</strong> (Chapters 5, 6, 7 and associated lecture notes)</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>The third post and response due (on a topic from Ch.9,10,11)</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
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<td>March 23 (Tuesday 5:30-6:30)</td>
<td><strong>Exam Three</strong> (Chapters 9, 10, 11 and lecture notes)</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>The fourth post and response due (on topic from Ch.12, 13)</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Laboratory participation must be completed</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>During Exam Period</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong> (scheduled by Registrar)</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and the details will be announced in class. The instructor is not able to reschedule the final exam. If there is a problem with the final exam schedule, students must contact the registrar’s office. Attention is drawn to Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty, as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office. Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy.

Policy Reminder: All excuses for missed exams must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty/programme. It is then also your responsibility to speak with your professor as soon as possible. Notes for exemption from course requirements must be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean of your faculty/programme within one week of the original due date of the missed work. After that time, students must appeal to have an exemption. Note that senate regulations for petitions for special consideration have always required that: "40. The student shall make a prompt and timely request for special consideration.” NO REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER ONE MONTH.

Please note that instructors and TAs cannot return long distance telephone calls. Contact by email is highly recommended.

For the fastest response to your inquiries, send your email to the Psych 2H03 course email address: help2h3@psychology.mcmaster.ca

Day Classes held (2H03):
Mon & Thurs: 12:30 -1:20 PM
Tues 1:30PM-2:20PM
January 5, 2004 to April 6, 2004.
ITB 137

Evening Classes held (2H03E):
Tuesday: 7:00 PM to 9:50 PM
TSH B105

Examinations and Review Sessions
Review sessions: Tuesday 5:45 - 6:45
Examinations: Tuesday 5:30 - 6:30
BSB 147