Psychology 2H03E – Human Learning and Cognition
Winter 2005, Evening Class

Instructor: Dr. Scott Watter
Contact: watter@mcmaster.ca (preferred method); 905 525-9140 x23215; Psychology Room 303.
Office hours: Mondays, 6pm-7pm, JHE 264 (before the lecture); additional hours announced as needed
Please send email from your McMaster account!!! – hotmail, yahoo, etc. is often filtered as spam!!!

Lectures: Mondays, 7pm-10pm, JHE 264.

TAs & Tutorials:
Your TA for this class is Ellen Gong (gongz@mcmaster.ca). TA office hours will be announced as required.
Most questions you have for your TA or the instructor re the class can be asked and answered via the discussion sections on WebCT. The scheduled tutorial time (Mondays, 6pm-7pm, JHE 264 – i.e. immediately before the lecture) will be used as a general office hours/Q&A time, where you can get help and ask questions from your instructor and/or your TA – this will not be a formal tutorial/review session.

WebCT:
The course website is available to registered students by logging into WebCT. http://webct.mcmaster.ca
You will need to learn how to use WebCT to access the course content, announcements, and discussions.
Detailed instructions for logging in and using WebCT can be found on the website above.

All Powerpoint slides from the lectures will be available on WebCT only AFTER the lectures, as PDFs.

Course objectives and content:
In this course you will be introduced to the major themes in the field of Cognitive Psychology, including topics in perception, attention, memory, concepts, language, imagery, problem solving and reasoning.

Required Text:
Chapters to be covered: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

Assessment:
80% of your grade will be based on exams;
8% from participation in a web-based discussion group assignment;
12% from participation in an experiment and a written assignment based on that experiment.

Exams:
For exams, you are responsible for the material covered in lectures AND the assigned chapters from the textbook. Please note that you may be examined on material presented in lectures that is not in the textbook, and also material from the textbook not covered in lectures.

There will be four multiple choice exams: three midterm exams, plus a final exam.
The three midterm exams are each worth 20%, and will each cover approximately 1/4 of the course.
The final exam will be made up of two halves, each worth 20%. The first section will cover the final 1/4 of the course material, and the second section will cover the entire course.
Out of these five examination components (the three midterms, plus the two parts of the final), the lowest will be dropped, and will not count towards your final grade.
Web assignment:
The web assignment is worth 8% of the grade. It involves accessing the WebCT based discussion group where you will find course-related topics posted. For each quarter of the course, you will be required to post one original comment, and one reply to another student's comment or question, each worth 1%.

Experimental assignment:
The experimental assignment is worth 12% of the grade. You will take part in, or if you prefer, simply observe one experiment from the psychology subject pool. Your participation is worth 2% of your grade. You will then need to find an article from the popular media that relates somehow to the issues addressed by the experiment you took part in, and write a paper (approximately three pages long) that discusses the two, and the relationship between them, worth 10%.
This paper can be submitted at any time during the semester, up until the last day of class. You also have an opportunity to revise and resubmit your paper once to improve your mark.
Further details on both assignments will be given out later, in class and on the course website.

Changes in course requirements:
Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and announced in class.

Academic Integrity Policy
Please be aware of the University Academic Integrity Policy. Cases of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: copying or the use of unauthorized aids in tests, examinations and laboratory reports; plagiarism, i.e., the submission of work that is not one's own; aiding and abetting another student's dishonesty giving false information for the purposes of gaining admission or credit; giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines; and/or forging or falsifying McMaster University documents. Students who infringe on the resolutions of the University Academic Integrity policy will be treated according to the published policy.

Missed Exams:
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.

Special Needs:
If you have special needs please contact the instructor so accommodations can be made.

Assessment Dates:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>1st web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 1</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 3, 4</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>2nd web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 2</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, 7</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>3rd web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 3</td>
<td>Chapters 9, 10, 11</td>
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<td>April 6 (last day of class)</td>
<td>Final date for experiment assignment submissions</td>
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<td>Exam period (date TBA)</td>
<td>4th web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam period (date TBA)</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Chapters 12, 13, 14, plus earlier chapters</td>
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