Classes: Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Lectures are in ABB 102

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Website: Course: [www.mcmaster.ca/psychology/sum1a3/](http://www.mcmaster.ca/psychology/sum1a3/)
Textbook: [www.wwnorton.com/gleitman/](http://www.wwnorton.com/gleitman/) (Contains online quizzes and lots of other goodies. You need the password that comes with your textbook purchase.)

Evaluation: Midterm test: May 25th 40%
Written Assignment: due June 6th 10%
Final exam: June 15th 50%
Bonus: Lab Participation 5% (max)

Exams

Each exam will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions and will cover only material since the last exam. You are responsible for knowing in detail and for understanding all material discussed in class and in the assigned chapters of the text. The midterm and exams are in-class exams. If you cannot write the midterm or final exam at the scheduled time, you must contact us by phone or e-mail prior to the exam to make alternate arrangements. If you have a medical certificate to cover your absence from the exam, you must contact us by phone or e-mail within 24 hours of the end date on your medical certificate to make alternate arrangements. Failure to contact us directly by phone or e-mail within those deadlines will result in an automatic zero on the midterm or final exam.

Literature Search Assignment

There will be one Literature Search Assignment, due June 6th 2005 at 6:30pm (you MUST hand it in at the beginning of class). The assignment is worth 10% of your final grade. There is a penalty of lateness of 1% of your final grade per day, so don’t be late!!! Since websites contain a lot of false information, website references (the “www” type) are not acceptable for this assignment. You must use only information contained in the university library systems – which of course, can be accessed via the web. Specific details of the assignment are on page 4, but will also be explained in class and be available through the course website.
Lab Participation

You get to participate in a real live Psychology experiment for 5% bonus course credit. For details on how to sign up, see the course website for the document called Lab Participation. There are penalties for not showing up on time for a study—so be sure to note the contact information for the study you agreed to participate in, and give notice if you need to cancel. Participation must be completed before the last class (June 15th).

Grading Scheme

Grades will be assigned according to the following conventional scheme:

90-100 = A+  
77-79 = B+  
67-69 = C+  
57-59 = D+

85-89 = A  
73-76 = B  
63-66 = C  
53-56 = D

80-84 = A-  
70-72 = B-  
60-62 = C-  
50-52 = D-  
0-49 = F

Please note the following important points:
1. We reserve the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis.
2. The details of the course requirements may be subject to change.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration on assignment.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
### Course Schedule

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>Biological Bases of Behavior</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Biological Bases of Behavior (cont’d)</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Motivation (cont’d)</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Learning (cont’d)</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td><strong>Victoria Day (no class)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM EXAM (40%)</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td><strong>ASSIGNMENT DUE (10%)</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Language (cont’d)</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM (50%)</strong></td>
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Literature Search Assignment (worth 10% of your final grade)

The purpose of this assignment is for you to find 3 recent (later than 1998) sources of information on a particular topic in psychology that interests you. The sources must be articles from a scientific journal (not a book) that is available through our libraries (i.e. in print or electronic sources). Examples of good journals are: Journal of Experimental Psychology, Nature, Child Development, Perception, Brain, Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry. PubMed and PsycInfo are good resources to use when looking for articles (you can find these through the library website).

For the assignment, you must write a one-page, single-spaced (or 2 pages double-spaced; maximum) summary of your topic. You must describe how each article adds unique information to our current understanding of the topic. Make sure you choose a topic that is specific enough so that 3 articles will sufficiently describe your topic. It might be easier to choose a question rather than a general topic. Use 12-point font, and one-inch margins. We will not read anything that goes over the page limit. Part of this assignment is learning how to write clearly and concisely. Please see the course website for an example of a summary. You may not use the articles cited in our examples.

Make sure you follow APA format when referencing your articles. See the example on the course website. Here is an example of a reference list (Note that these are old references. You must choose articles published in or after 1998):

References

Use the APA format of writing the author(s)' last name(s) and the year of publication when you are referring to your articles in your summary. Here is an example of how to cite your articles in your summary:

Benda (1968) states that ...

Several studies support this conclusion (Benda, 1968; Goldfarb, Goldfarb, & Pollack, 1966; Koegel & Rincover, 1974).

Make sure to email us questions regarding the assignment in advance. We may not be able to answer all questions on time if you wait until the day before your assignment is due!