PSYCH2H03D Fall 2005/2006 Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Karin R. Humphreys; krh@mcmaster.ca; 905 525-9140 x23011; Psych Room 410;
Office hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-2; Plus, on mornings of midterms, 9-10:30; additional hours TBA

IMPORTANT NOTE on contacting the professor:
Because this is a very large class, it is unfortunately EXTREMELY difficult for me to read and respond to hundreds of individual emails.

The first place to check for information is the “Class Announcements: section on WebCT.
Then, most remaining questions you have about the class should be posted to the “Class questions” WebCT discussion group” For issues you still need to contact me about, I highly recommend you come see me during my office hours, where I will be more than happy to spend time with you personally. Many simple questions can also be resolved by approaching me before or after lectures. If you are emailing me, PLEASE use your McMaster email account, as hotmail, yahoo accounts, etc are very likely to be automatically spam-filtered, and I may never even see them.

TAs:
TA office hours will be announced as required. Most questions you have for the TAs or the instructor re
the class can be asked and answered via the discussion sections on WebCT. However, you have also been assigned a specific TA, if you have more questions or problems.
If your student number ends in digits
00-32, your TA is Jennifer Heisz, heiszjj@mcmaster.ca
33-65, your TA is Jessica Phillips-Silver, phillij@mcmaster.ca
66-99, your TA is Debra Pollock, <email forthcoming>

Lectures:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11:30-12:20pm; JHE 376

Tutorials:
There are NO formal tutorials for this class. However, JHE 376 is booked for Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 in order to hold exam review sessions, etc. These will be announced in class, and on WebCT.

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 slides from the lectures will be made 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 perception, attention, memory, concepts, language, imagery, problem solving and reasoning.

Required Text:
Chapters to be covered are: 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 assignment;
12% from participation in two experiments and a written assignment based on one of those experiments.

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 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 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, observe TWO HOURS worth of experiments 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%.
You have TWO opportunities to submit this assignment. Any submissions received by 5pm Friday, October 28 will be marked, and returned with comments by November 4. If you choose, you then have an opportunity to revise and resubmit your paper once to improve your mark. Any assignments received after this date will be considered final submissions. Final submissions are due 5pm, Friday, November 26. Further details on both assignments will be given out later.

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.

Important Dates:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 27</td>
<td>First web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, September 27</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 1 Chapters 1, 3, 4,</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 18</td>
<td>Second web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 18</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 2 Chapters 5, 6, 7</td>
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<td>Friday, October 28 (5pm)</td>
<td>First assignment submission deadline (optional)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 8</td>
<td>Third web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 8</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 3 Chapters 9, 10, 11</td>
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<td>Friday, November 11</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<td>Friday, November 26 (5pm)</td>
<td>Final assignment submission deadline</td>
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<td>Exam period (date TBA)</td>
<td>Fourth web post and response due (before exam)</td>
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<td>Exam period (date TBA)</td>
<td>Final Exam Chapters 12, 13, 14, plus earlier chapters</td>
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