

## Human Learning and Cognition PSYCH 2H03

LECTURES: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:30 pm

LOCATION: HH 109

INSTRUCTOR: Meredith Young

PC 141

Ext. 24824

[Youngme2@mcmaster.ca](mailto:Youngme2@mcmaster.ca)

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT\*: Reisberg, D. (2006). *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind*. 3rd Edition. Chapters to be covered: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

*\*Please note that this text is required. You are responsible for the information in the required readings from these texts. Much of this information will not be directly referred to in lecture but you will still be tested on it.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course intends to provide an introduction to the fields of human learning and cognition. 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.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: Students must have a WebCT account. A limited set of lecture slides, assignments, course outline, grades, and announcements will be posted on WebCT. *Only a subset of lecture slides will be available – course attendance is required for this course.*

COURSE ORGANIZATION: The course is comprised of lectures, which are open to simultaneous discussion – students are encouraged to ask questions and question ideas. Students should also feel free to post questions on WebCT, and are encouraged to respond to the postings of others. However, please respect the opinions of others, and abuse of the Discussion Board will not be tolerated.

Readings will be assigned to accompany each lecture. You are encouraged to review the assigned materials *prior* to each lecture. The material covered in these readings will compliment topics addressed in lecture, but will generally not be directly repeated in class. Students are responsible for both the material covered in lecture and in the readings.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

CLASS ATTENDANCE/MISSED CLASSES: Students are responsible for any material presented in missed classes. **The instructor will not lend out lecture notes.** Skeletal notes

will be available on WebCT, but students are encouraged to borrow notes from a fellow student.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** 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](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm).

**GRADE CALCULATION:** *\*Grades (except for final grades) will be posted on WebCT.*

Pop quizzes: 5% (1 per week)

\*Quiz 1: 12.5%

\*Quiz 2: 12.5%

\*Lab Report 1: 12.5%

\*Lab Report 2: 12.5%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 35%

*\*You MUST hand in both lab reports, however grades will be calculated to include your top three marks from both quizzes and assignments. The top three marks will be re-weighted to sum to 35%*

*\*\*If students participate in a minimum of two psychology experimental credits, students are eligible for an additional 2% course bonus.*

*\*\*\*Late assignments will not be accepted. If you provide appropriate documentation pertaining to a late assignment, the grade will be re-weighted to an alternate portion of the course. If appropriate documentation is not provided, a grade of zero will apply.*

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>
1) May 5	Topic 1: History/introduction	Chpt 1	
2) May 7	Topic 2: Perception	Chpt 3	
3) May 12	Topic 3: Attention 4:30 - Special tutorial: writing methods	Chpt 4	
4) May 14	Topic 4: Memory I 4:30 - Special tutorial: writing results and interpreting data	Chpt 5, 6	QUIZ 1
5) May 19	HOLIDAY		

6) May 22	Topic 4: Review and Memory II	Chpt 7	LAB REPORT 1 DUE
7) May 26	Lecture following exam - Topic 5: Categories and Concepts	Chpt 9	MIDTERM
8) May 29	Topic 6: Language 4:30 - Special tutorial: writing an introduction	Chpt 10	
9) June 2	Topic 7: judgment and decision making 4:30 - Special tutorial: writing a discussion	Chpt 11, 12	
10) June 4	Topic 8: Reasoning	Chpt 13	QUIZ 2
11) June 9	Topic 9: Problem Solving	Chpt 14	LAB REPORT 2 DUE
12) June 11	Topic 10&11: Expertise and Creativity	Chpt 15	
13) June 16	Review		
14) June 18	FINAL EXAM		FINAL EXAM

*\*This schedule is tentative, and changes can be made at the instructor's discretion.*