SYLLABUS
PSYCH 2H03: Human Perception & Cognition
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour
McMaster University Fall Term: September – December 2014

Course Description: 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.

When and where:
Lectures: Thursday, 7:30-10:20 pm; JHE/376
Tutorials: Thursday 6:30-7:20 pm; JHE/376
Midterm Exams: Thursday 6:30-7:30 pm; JHE/376 (plus another room TBA)

Course web site: Avenue to Learn

Professor: Dr. J.M. Shedden Email: shedden@mcmaster.ca

Teaching assistants: Your TA is determined by group (you can find your group assignment on Avenue):
Group 1: Your TA is Robert Collins collinrn@mcmaster.ca
Group 2: Your TA is Melissa Ptok ptokmj@mcmaster.ca
Group 3: Your TA is Craig Zhou zhouy36@mcmaster.ca

The Avenue Discussions tool is a great place to ask and answer questions. If you need help that you cannot get from the on-line discussions on Avenue, please email your TA. Important: Please send email from your McMaster account; we cannot respond to email addresses that do not provide your identity. Email messages from hotmail, yahoo, cogeco and some other service providers are often filtered as spam and may not arrive at the destination. We will use the McMaster email system; please do not send email from Avenue unless you set the “reply to” your McMaster email address.

Required Text: Reisberg, D. (2012). Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind, 5th Edition (available at the Campus Store). Older editions are okay, but it is your responsibility to make sure you are not missing anything from the 5th Edition because exams will test material from lectures and the 5th edition textbook. Option: It is possible to rent or buy an electronic version of the textbook; see News post on Avenue (date of post: August 28 2014).

Assessment:
80% of your grade will be based on 5 multiple-choice exams
4 midterms (best 3 of 4, worth 17% each)
Final cumulative (worth 29%)
5% Participation in on-line discussions on Avenue
15% Take part in at least 2 experiments (minimum 2 full SONA credits = 2 hours) and write a paper on one of them (experiments available on SONA at https://mcmaster.sona-systems.com).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Schedule: Thursday, 7:30-10:20 PM, JHE/376</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tutorial / Assignment / Exam Schedule: Thursday, 6:30-7:20 PM, JHE/376 (tentative location)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: Exams may be in JHE/376 and an additional room (details will be posted on Avenue).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11, 18, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 9, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 24 (Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 6, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 14 (Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 28 (Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both in one 3 hour sitting scheduled by the Registrar’s Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exams (80%):
Some material presented in lectures is not in the textbook, and some material from the textbook is not covered in lectures. Exams will cover material from BOTH lectures and textbook. There will be five exams which may contain both short-answer and multiple-choice questions. Four are midterm exams, and the fifth is the final cumulative exam. Midterms 1, 2, and 3 will be held during the Thursday 6:30-7:20pm time slots (see schedule for dates). Midterm 4 and the cumulative final exam will be written during the final exam period (scheduled by the registrar). Out of the four midterm components, the lowest will be dropped, and will not count towards your final grade. The remaining 3 midterm exams will be equally weighted (17% each). The final cumulative exam is worth 29%.

No examination will be re-scheduled unless there is cancellation of the class by the University, and there will be no makeup exams (see Missed Tests below).

Participation in on-line discussions on Avenue (5%):
- The on-line discussion is a venue for students to help each other. Pose and answer questions, discuss issues related to course material, and help each other study. Read what your colleagues are posting. Can you help with any questions your colleagues are asking? Can you help with understanding? Perhaps take the discussion in a different direction once the original question has been resolved? If you are starting a thread of your own, make the subject line unique and informative.
- Your participation will be evaluated at the end of the term. We will look at the quality and course-relevance of your posts. We will look for professionalism and respect for your peers. Writing skills are important, including grammar and spelling – it is important to check your sources as you develop professional skills.
- We will look at the dates of your posts for an indication that your participation is spread across the term and not all in one spurt; for example, 20 posts within the last month will not count as much as 20 posts spread across the 3 months. There is no “minimum” number of posts required; however, aiming for at least 100 words per week of high quality discussion is a reasonable goal. This bulleted paragraph has about 100 words. Try to use this venue as a tool to improve understanding and exchange of ideas, rather than going for the minimum.

Experiment Participation (2%):
- Take part in, or if you prefer, observe 2 or more experiments (minimum of 2 full SONA credits = 2 hours) offered through the Departmental Participant Pool. Use SONA (link on the Psychology department’s home page) to select and sign up for experiments. Understand and save the debriefing provided by the experimenter. Write down the SONA code for each experiment, you’ll need this for your paper.

Experiment Paper (13%):
- Choose one of your experiments to write about. You will need to write about the general motivation, the dependent and independent variables, and the research hypothesis, so make sure you get this information during the debriefing. Find a primary research article (a primary research article, not a secondary or review paper) that is relevant to the experiment you will write about. Here are two sources to help you discriminate between a primary and secondary research article:
  - http://www.ithacalibrary.com/sp/subjects/primary
  - http://www.library.utoronto.ca/gerstein/tutorial/primary_research1.html
- Write a 3 page paper (Arial-type 11 point font, double spaced, 1” margins). Describe the SONA
experiment you selected (the general motivation, the hypotheses, the independent and dependent variables). Summarize the primary research article and discuss how the experiment you participated in and the research article are related. How do the issues addressed in the experiment relate to the primary research article? How might you extend the research with a follow-up experiment? How might the research be important to understanding cognition and behavior in everyday life? You will be graded on writing skills as well as content. See marking scheme below.

- Your paper should have a cover page that includes the following information:
  o Your name and student ID number
  o Your Avenue group number and your TA’s name
  o The title of your paper
  o The SONA code and the name of the experiment you are writing about
  o The complete reference (in APA format) for your primary research article
  o A working link to your primary research article. **Test it!** If you can’t generate a working link then select a different article – your TA needs access to the article to grade your paper.

- Submit your paper via Avenue Dropbox in Word format (.doc or .docx). Please do not convert to PDF.
  o If you submit your assignment by midnight on **Friday, October 24**, your TA will mark it and provide feedback by **Friday, November 14**. You then have the option to revise and resubmit the assignment on the basis of this feedback if you would like to improve your mark. You can also make an appointment with your TA at this stage to get more feedback. The **FINAL** date for all submissions and resubmissions is midnight on **Friday, November 28**.
  o **Important:** If you resubmit, there must be clear improvement or your grade will go down. Assignments submitted after the October 24th deadline will not be allowed to resubmit.

**Marking scheme for Experiment Paper:**

- **2%** Participate in 2 or more experiments (minimum 2 full SONA credits = 2 hours)
- **13%** Paper
  o 4% Description of experiment, including the general point of the experiment, the hypothesis being tested, and the independent and dependent variables
  o 6% Discussion of the primary research article and how it relates to the experiment you participated in, as suggested above.
    - **Important:** The TAs must be able to access the research article via the link on your cover page. **If your link does not work this section will receive zero**, so be sure to test the link that you provide. If you can’t find a working link, then find a different primary research article. It might sound trivial but it is very important – if the TAs cannot easily access the articles, it will not be possible to grade this number of papers in the time available.
  o 3% Overall quality of writing, including clarity, structure and correct usage

**Late submissions:** will be penalized by 2 marks for each day overdue, judged at midnight.
General Information

**Final Grades:** All assessment components will be assigned numerical grades, and the total converted to a letter grade according to McMaster’s standard grading scheme:

- **A+** 90-100%
- **A** 85-89%
- **A-** 80-84%
- **B+** 77-79%
- **B** 73-76%
- **B-** 70-72%
- **C+** 67-69%
- **C** 63-66%
- **C-** 60-62%
- **D+** 57-59%
- **D** 53-56%
- **D-** 50-52%
- **F** 0-49%

**Missed Tests:**
There will not be a re-examination for missing any of the midterm examinations. Missed midterms will receive a “zero” and that grade will be dropped when calculating the best 3 out of 4 midterm exams, assuming the student writes the other 3 midterms. If a student misses a second midterm examination, owing to an illness or any other legitimate reason, and provided an official permission is routed through the University Administration or by filling in the McMaster Student Absent Form (MSAF), the weight of the second missed midterm will be shifted to the final cumulative exam which will now be worth 46%. The student should get in touch with the instructor within 48 hours after the second missed midterm by email to shedden@mcmaster.ca. In absence of such an arrangement, the mark on the second missed midterm will be a “zero”.

**McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):**
The MSAF may be used to report some (but not all) absences. For example, the MSAF cannot be used in the following situations:

1. when the request for relief of missed work is for non-medical reasons (e.g. religious holidays, personal reasons, athletic events as a student athlete, etc), or
2. for a medical situation that lasts for more than 5 days, or
3. for a second or subsequent time in a term, or
4. for a major piece of work (worth 30% or more), or
5. for the final exam.

Please make yourself familiar with the terms of using the MSAF by going to the following web sites:

1. http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/

**Privacy:**
In this course we will be using AVENUE for the online portions of your course. 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 your professor.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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 types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

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 in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**A note from the University:**
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.