Course Objectives and Content: The core theme throughout the term will be the “illusion of the expert”, which refers to the observation that, as experts in perception and cognition, we are all unaware of the myriad mental processes lurking under the surface of our external behaviour; just as we can only see the tip of the iceberg, so too we can only observe the external behaviour of an individual. The primary goal of psychology is to make apparent the mental processes underlying overt behaviour and action. We will start by considering how information gets into our mind—the sensory system. Specifically, we will talk about going beyond the information given. This will lead to a discussion of perception and the various ways information enters our conscious awareness. One important attribute of our cognitive system is the highly selective nature of processing, which leads to the limited capacity nature of our minds. Once information is processed and available to consciousness, we need to consider how that knowledge is represented and stored. Here we will focus on how memory is a by-product of perceptual processing and how acquisition and retrieval are interactive and dependent processes. In the end, I will further argue that memory is a reconstruction. Finally, at the end of the course, we will apply all of this information to understand how we make judgments about everyday things using both heuristics (i.e., rules of thumb), and some rules. Importantly, I will argue that we often ignore a great idea of information (e.g., base rates) in making critical life-course decisions.

Instructors: David I. Shore, Lorraine Chuen, Barb Fenesi, Haley Kragness, Nadia Wong

Contact: pnb2xa3@psychology.mcmaster.ca

Readings:
Various Readings posted to Avenue2Learn and extracted from the McMaster Library System.

Class Times:
Lectures: Monday Wednesday & Thursday 10:30-11:20 in BSB/B135.
Tutorial: Tuesday 10:30-11:30 in BSB/104, BSB/105, PC/335, ABB/162
Office Hours: by appointment

Evaluation Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (during tutorial)</td>
<td>Sept. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 25, Registrar scheduled exam (A+B).</td>
<td>Best 5 of 6</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Quizzes/Assignments</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make it Stick Quizzes</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cue Card Assignments</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exams:
Exams will test both lecture and reading material equally. There will be 5 exams: The first four of these will be held during the tutorials as noted above. The final two exams will take place during the registrar-scheduled exam. Part A will cover the last two weeks of lecture; part B will be cumulative of the entire course. Your best five grades from these six evaluations will be used.

In-class Quizzes and Assignments:
Quizzes and assignments will take place at the beginning of many classes and will focus on the readings assigned for that class. Quizzes will use iclickers. Assignments will be completed on 4"x6" cue cards. You are required to bring both your iclicker and a WHITE 4"x6" cue card to every class and tutorial. Failure to bring either will result in a zero for that assessment. Missed quizzes and assignments will be assigned a zero. You can drop your worst 3 grades.

Make it Stick Quizzes: There are 8 chapters in the assigned book. There will be 8 class periods devoted to the content in the book (one class per chapter). The class will start with a short quiz and assignment. The first lecture will take place on September 15 and will cover chapter 1 of the book. Subsequent dates will be set once the course starts.

Cue card assignments:
You are required to read 5 empirical articles of your choosing. The articles must be related to the content in the course—ideally choose an article cited in one of your readings or discussed in class. For each article you will produce a cue-card (4"x6" index card), which contains on one side the APA reference for the article you have chosen, and on the other side five sentences, one sentence each for the question, hypothesis, method, result and implication from the study. The cue cards are due in the Monday class prior to each of the midterms.

Grading Policy:
The instructors reserve the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual’s total performance in the course. Final grades may also be adjusted up or down on a class-wide basis depending on overall performance. Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on Avenue and the details will be announced in class. The instructor is not able to reschedule the final exam. If there is a problem with the final exam schedule, students must contact the registrar’s office. Attention is drawn to Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office. Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy.

Missed Work Policy:
If you are absent from the university for a temporary medical issue (i.e., the flu), lasting fewer than 5 days, you may report your absence using the McMaster Student Absence Form. Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty/Program office, with documentation. When using the MSAF, report your absence to pnb2XA3@psychology.mcmaster.ca. You must speak to the instructor in person before or after class within 5 business days. In-class quizzes will not be made up since you can drop your worst 3. Midterms will not be made up, but your grade will be estimated based on the content-relevant questions from the cumulative portion of the final exam. For all other assignments, please discuss accommodations with your instructor.
Communication policy:
E-mail communications must originate from your designated McMaster e-mail account. Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, the e-mail will be sent to this account. You should monitor this account regularly. E-mail sent from third-party providers (yahoo, hotmail, cogeco, sympatico, etc.) will not be received. We have this policy for three reasons: 1. reduce the amount of incoming spam to our accounts; 2. ensure that we know with whom we are communicating; 3. teach the professional use of e-mail. Please note that instructors and TAs cannot return long distance telephone calls. The fastest avenue for feedback concerning course-related problems is the course e-mail address <pnb2xa3@mail.psychology.mcmaster.ca>. This will be monitored daily and a response will be sent within two business days.

Logistics:
McMaster University reserves the right to change or cancel course dates, assignments and their grading weights, and deadlines at the discretion of the instructor and in case of an emergency, labour disruption, civil unrest/disobedience, etc.