

## Psych2H03 Winter 2016 Human Learning and Cognition

(Last updated, January 11 2016)

**Instructor:** Dr. Karin Humphreys

**Email:** [krh@mcmaster.ca](mailto:krh@mcmaster.ca) (preferred contact method);

**Phone:** 905 525-9140 x23011

**Office:** PC-410

**Office Hours:** By appointment. Most questions can best be answered before or after lectures, by asking your TAs, or via Avenue

### TAs:

There are no formal tutorials, but the TAs are available to answer questions posted to Avenue, via email, or in person by appointment. The quickest way to get your questions answered is via Avenue, where any of the TAs, the professor, or your fellow students can help you.

On Avenue, in your Grades section, it will tell you which one of the TAs is your TA. This is the TA who will be marking your written assignments, and who you should be emailing with questions.

Michael Barone, [baronem@mcmaster.ca](mailto:baronem@mcmaster.ca)

Andrew LoGiudice, [logiudab@mcmaster.ca](mailto:logiudab@mcmaster.ca)

Kathleen Oliver, [oliverlk@mcmaster.ca](mailto:oliverlk@mcmaster.ca)

Brendan Stanley, [stanley@mcmaster.ca](mailto:stanley@mcmaster.ca)

Natalie Wagner, [wagnernk@mcmaster.ca](mailto:wagnernk@mcmaster.ca)

TA office hours TBA, or by appointment

### Emailing:

Please use only your McMaster email address when emailing either the TAs or the professor. Other addresses often get spam filtered, and will never be read. Please do not send email directly from Avenue unless you set the “reply to” your McMaster email address.

**ALSO: Please include 2H03 in your subject line**

**Classes:** Monday, 7pm, JHE 376

**Avenue:** The course website is available to registered students by logging into Avenue <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> You will need to learn how to use Avenue to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. All PowerPoint slides from the lectures will be made available on Avenue only after the lectures, as pdfs. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with class announcements made on Avenue.

In this course we will be using Avenue. 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.

**Course objectives and content:** 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.

**Required Text:**

Reisberg, D. (2016). Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.

The ZAPS software that accompanies the textbook is not required. If you are choosing to use the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook, MOST of the content overlaps, although the chapter numbers are different. The exams will be based on the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, so it is completely YOUR responsibility to ensure you are not missing anything from the newest edition, and that you are aligning the chapters appropriately.

There are electronic versions of the text available to buy or rent.

**Evaluation:**

The assessment for this course will be based on four midterms, worth 18% each (dropping your lowest of the four exams), plus a cumulative final worth 29%.

All exams will be multiple choice.

Midterms 1, 2 and 3 will be held in the regular classroom, at the start of the regular class time. These will be followed by lectures. Midterms will be on February 1, February 29, and March 31.

Midterm 4 and the cumulative final will be together as a single exam during the exam period, as scheduled by the registrars office.

In addition, you will be required to participate in two hours worth of experiments, worth 2% in total, and based on these experiments, write two papers, the first worth 5%, the second worth 10%. Assignment 1 is due February 22, and Assignment 2 is due March 28. Assignments are to be submitted electronically to Avenue via DropBox. Assignments are due by 7pm (the start of lecture).

Students will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, as well as the material in the textbook.

**Summary:**

Best 3 of 4 midterms: 18% + 18% + 18% = 54%

Cumulative Final: 29%

Experiment participation: 2%

Written Assignments: 5% + 10% = 15%

**Missed or Late Assessment:**

If an absence for assessment has been registered, you MUST contact the instructor as soon as possible.

For the written assignments, for each day late, you will lose 1 mark, corresponding to 1% of the total grade for the course.

If you miss a midterm, and submit an MSAF, you must contact the professor immediately. There will be NO reweighting of exams. You may choose to either let that exam be the midterm you drop from your final mark, OR to write a makeup exam, to be scheduled within a week of the missed exam. Students with excused absences are STRONGLY recommended to write the makeup exam, as there will be no reweighting if a subsequent exam is dropped.

If you miss a midterm without either an MSAF or by prior arrangement with the instructor, you will receive zero for that exam, and it will count as the mark to be dropped. If you miss a second midterm without excuse, the mark of zero will count towards your final grade.

### **McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
- The upper limit for which an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from ‘less than 30%’ to ‘less than 25%’ of the course weight.
- The ‘one MSAF per term’ limit is retained.

### **Written Assignments and Experimental Participation:**

You will need to participate in at least two different experiments, for two hours worth of credit, worth 2% of your grade. You will be completing two different written assignments based on these experiments. The instructions for both assignments are the same. The first assignment is worth 5%, and you will receive feedback on it. You are expected to be able to improve your work for the second assignment based on that feedback, which is why it will be worth 10%.

**Experimental participation:** The system that the department uses to track research participation is called Sona, which can be accessed at [mcmaster.sona-systems.com](http://mcmaster.sona-systems.com). To access Sona for the first time, select the “Request Account” option on the right of your screen and enter your name, student number, and McMaster email address. You will also be asked to pick your courses. Please select Psych 2H03 from the list. After a short delay, you will receive an email from Sona with a username and temporary password that you can use to access the website. You should change your temporary password to something more memorable by selecting “My Profile”. Make sure your student number is entered correctly! Note: You must activate your McMaster ID before you can create a Sona account. To activate your ID, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/uts/macid](http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/macid)

#### Completing Your Research Participation Credit

When you log into Sona for the first time, you will be asked to fill out a short survey. This information is used filter out any experiments for which you are not eligible.

To register for an experiment, select “Study Sign-Up” from the main Sona page. You will be presented with a list of currently available experiments, with a short description given about each. Before selecting an experiment, be sure to read the description carefully, making special note of any specific criteria for participation (for example, some experiments only allow females to participate, while others may require subjects who speak a second language). When you have found an experiment that you would like to participate in, select “View Time Slots for this Study” to view available timeslots, then select “Sign-Up” to register for a time that fits your schedule. You will receive a confirmation email with the details of your selection. Be sure to write down the experiment number, experimenter name, location, and telephone extension from this email.

After you have completed an experiment, you will be given a paper slip verifying your participation. This slip is for your records only—in the event that an experiment is not credited to your Sona account, this slip is your proof of participation. Shortly after completing an experiment, you should notice that your Sona account has been credited by the experimenter.

**IMPORTANT: Because you need to write cognition papers based on these experiments, it is crucial that you select experiments that are relevant to the field of cognition. If in doubt, you can contact the experimenter to double-check.**

#### Additional Notes

- If you do not wish to participate as a research subject for any reason, you may still earn your research participation credit by *observing* two hours of experiments. If you would like to choose this option, please see the course coordinator, Dr. Michelle Cadieux, in PC 110.

- If you fail to show up for two experiments, you will lose your option to complete the research participation credit. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend a scheduled experiment, please contact the experimenter as soon as possible.

**Written Assignments:**

**Instructions TBA**

**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. The instructor reserves the right to assign grade cutoffs.

**Special Needs:** If you have special needs, please contact the instructor so accommodations can be made.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** It is your responsibility to 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.

## **Outline of Topics**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
January 11	Foundations	1, 2
January 18	Perception	3, 4
January 25	Attention	5
February 1	Midterm 1	(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
	Memory Acquisition, Working Memory	6
February 8	Acquisition and Retrieval	7
February 22	Assignment 1 Due 7pm	
	Remembering Complex Events	8
February 29	Midterm 2	(6, 7, 8)
	Concepts	9
March 7	Language	10
March 14	Visual Knowledge	11
March 21	Midterm 3	(9, 10, 11)
	Judgment and Reasoning	12
March 28	Assignment 2 due 7pm	
	Problem Solving and Intelligence	13
April 4	Conscious and Unconscious Thought	14
Exam Period	Midterm 4 Cumulative Final	(12, 13, 14) (All Chapters)