

**Psychology 3VV3  
Course Outline  
Fall, 2015**

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**When and Where:** Monday and Thursday, 3:30-4:20, Tuesday, 4:30-5:20                      ABB 164

**Text:** Neath, I. & Surprenant, A.M. (2003). *Human Memory: An introduction to research, data, and theory*. Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

**Website:** <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

**Course Content:** One course objective is to provide students with an overview of the research literature on human memory. A second course objective is to foster the development of research skills. These objectives will be addressed in part through lectures on selected topics, and participating in class and web-based discussions, with the goal of developing the skills required to form conceptual links between data and theory. In addition, we'll evaluate a set of original research articles, with students required to write short position papers, and to lead oral discussions based on those articles.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. describe evidence-based constructs in the different content areas of human memory research;
2. explain the major paradigms used in the study of human memory;
3. analyze how research findings support major theories of human memory;
4. critically evaluate competing theories in the domain of human memory;
5. evaluate and synthesize research from the human memory literature in order to formulate evidence-based arguments;
6. recognize and apply the components of affective argumentative writing practices;
7. engage with other students to facilitate learning!

**Email:** Please note that replies to emails may take 1-2 business days but we will aim to reply to email within 24 hours. Please use your McMaster email account for all communications.

**Note:** We encourage you to post content-related questions on the general discussion board. This way, all students will benefit from the reply, whether from the instructor, TA, or your fellow student.

**Tentative Schedule of Readings:** It is recommended that readings from the text be completed before attending the lecture at which that material is discussed. Below is a list of the approximate dates on which each of the readings will be covered. This outline is subject to change. Changes to the course outline will be posted on the course website.

Date	Topic	Textbook Reading	Notes
Week of... September 7	Description of Course Objectives		Welcome! 😊
September 14	Introduction	Chapter 1	
September 21	Sensory Memory	Chapter 2	
September 28	The Modal Model	Chapter 3	
October 5	Perspectives on Processing	Chapter 5	October 12-17 Midterm Recess
October 19	Implicit Memory	Chapter 7	Midterm Exam Mon. October 19
October 26	Amnesia	Chapter 8	
November 2	Recognition	Chapter 9	
November 9	Categorization	TBA	Guest Lecture
November 16	Reconstruction	Chapter 12	
November 23	Development	Chapter 14	
November 30	Eyewitness Memory	TBA	
December 7	Review		

**Additional Readings:** The course will be divided into five subunits (each comprised of two content units). Two research articles will be assigned for each content unit. Students are required to read at least one research paper from each subunit (i.e., five research papers).

**Evaluation:** A mid-term examination will be held on October 19 th, and will contribute 20% toward the final grade. The final exam will be held during the December final examination period, and will contribute 35% toward the final grade. Students will also be required to complete two assignments. The first assignment requires students to write a short (two page) position paper (worth 10% of the final grade). For the second assignment, students have the choice of either writing a second position paper, or to give an oral presentation (worth 15% of the final grade). These position papers and oral presentations will be based on selected research articles that are related to each content unit. Finally, 9% of the course grade will be based on web discussions of the research articles, 1% on a peer review exercise, and 10% of the course grade will be based on class attendance and contributions to discussion following oral presentations.

#### Summary of Evaluation

Final Exam	35%
Midterm Exam	20%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	15%
Web Discussion	9%
Participation	10%
Peer Evaluation	1%
Total	100%

**Assigning of Final Grades:** Initially, all assigned grades will be numerical. Final letter grades will be assigned based on the table below.

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

**Note 1:** The penalty for position papers submitted after the due date is 10% per day that the paper is late. Submissions to the web discussion group after the due date will not be graded.

**Note 2:** 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.

**Note 3:** All excuses for missed exams must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of Social Science (or Science etc., depending on your program). 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.

**Note 4:** Attention is drawn to the 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.