

Psychology 3VV3
Course Outline (as of Sept 1, 2017)
Fall, 2017

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When and Where: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 – 9:20 BSB 108

Text: There is no textbook assigned for this course. However, there are assigned readings for each of the content topics. A readings list for the content topics will be distributed during the first week of lectures.

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

Course Objectives: 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 in part through class and web-based discussions. In addition, we'll tackle a set of original research articles, with students required to contribute to web-based discussions, to write short position papers, and to lead oral discussions based on those articles.

Evaluation: A mid-term examination will be held on October 17th, and will contribute 25% 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 either to write two short (two page) position papers each worth 10% of the final grade, or to give an oral presentation worth 20% of the final grade. These position papers and oral presentations will be based on selected research articles that we discuss on Friday mornings. Finally, 10% of the course grade will be assigned based on web discussions, and 10% of the course grade will be assigned based on class attendance and participation for the Friday oral presentations.

Summary of Evaluation

Final exam	35%
Midterm exam	25%
Position Papers / Presentation	20%
Web Discussion	10%
Friday participation	10%
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

Tentative Schedule of Readings: It is recommended that assigned readings for each content topic (see list below) 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 content topics will be covered. A reading list for the content topics will be distributed during the first week of lectures.

Week beginning ...	Topic	Special Dates
September 4	Course Overview	
September 11	Modal Model	
September 18	Process/Structure	
September 25	Implicit Memory	
October 2	Amnesia	
October 9		Mid-term recess – no classes
October 16	Memory & Hippocampus	Oct 17: Mid-term exam
October 23	Recognition	
October 30	Categorization	
November 6	Memory and Aging 1	
November 13	Memory and Aging 2	
November 20	Reconstruction	
November 27	Eyewitness memory	

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). Also, 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.