

**PSYCH 720: CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN PSYCHOLOGY,
NEUROSCIENCE & BEHAVIOUR**

Instructor: Dr. David I. Shore, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, PC-409,
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Office Hours: By appointment. The best way to contact me is via email.

Location: Classes are held: Wednesday from 11:30-14:20 hrs in PC-204.
Thursday from 14:30-16:30 (for Department Colloquia)

- Objectives:**
1. Provide exposure to contemporary problems within the broad field of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour. This goal is achieved through two mechanisms: six 3-week modules taught by instructors from our Department and mandatory attendance at the weekly colloquia.
 2. Exercise critical thinking and communication skills. This is done through weekly discussions of articles, regular written assignments, and two oral presentations.
 3. Develop a cohort of engaged academics focused on professional development and research excellence. This is done through all of the above activities.

Course Calendar (subject to revision)

Term I (September—December 2014)

SEPT 07: No Class
14: Introductions and Ice Breakers
21: **Module 1 —Shore**
28: Module 1 continued.
OCT 05: Module 1 continued.
12: *Fall Break – No Class*
19: Module 2 — **Watter/Humphreys**
26: Module 2 continued.
NOV 02: Module 2 continued.
09: TBA
16: **Module 3 —Balshine**
23: Module 3 continued.
30: Module 3 continued.
Dec 07: Wrap-up and debrief

Term II (January—April 2015)

JAN 04: **Module 4 —Brown**
11: Module 4 continued
18: Module 4 continued
25: TBA
FEB 01: **Module 5 —Rutherford**
08: Module 5 continued.
15: Module 5 continued.
22: **Spring Break**
MAR 01: TBA
08: TBA
15: **Module 6 — deCatanzero**
22: Module 6 continued.
29: Module 6 continued.
APR 05: Final Wrap-up and feedback.

Expectations. Participation in class discussion requires that you have read the required reading and given thought to the core ideas. You must display an understanding of the material that goes beyond simple memorization of facts. Study habits developed in undergraduate provide a strong foundation, but graduate education requires a deeper engagement with the ideas. You must attend all classes and at least 80% of all Department Colloquia.

Grading. Your final grade will be based on three components:

1. Each module instructor will provide a grade out of 100 points based on their grading scheme. For each module 8-10 students will be presenters—their grade will be based on their presentation. The remaining students will submit a short paper—their grade will be based on their written submission. See each instructor's syllabus for specifications on format for presentations and papers. You will present in one module during the fall term and another during the winter term. Assignment to modules will be completed during the first class.
2. Each student will submit four (4) précis throughout the year (two per term) based on the Department colloquia. Précis grades depend on clarity, clutter, logic, and interest.
3. Finally, students will be graded on their participation in, and contributions toward, class discussions. Students are not expected to question or comment on everything and/or make trivial or glib remarks; when you opt to say something, it should be insightful, substantive, and/or informative.

Assignment	#	%
1. Module Grades (presentation or paper)	6	60
2. Précis Writing	4	20
3. Participation	ongoing	20
Total		100

Deadlines. Individual instructors will specify deadlines for their assignments. Late assignments will be penalized. Précis are due the Wednesday following any given colloquium. You can submit a maximum of four (4) Précis in a given term—your best two will count.

Academic Dishonesty. 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. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means, and can result in serious consequences for a student such as the grade of zero on an exam or assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the student's transcript that reads "*Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty*", and/or suspension or expulsion from McMaster University. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to McMaster's Academic Integrity Policy located at <<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>>.

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.