

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

Instructor: Dr. Mel Rutherford, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, PC-105,
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Classes: Wednesday from 11:30-14:20 hrs in PC-204.
Thursday from 14:30-16:30 (Department Colloquia)

- Objectives:**
1. Provide exposure to contemporary problems in the fields of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour. This goal is achieved through: 1) six 3- week modules taught by PNB faculty and 2) attendance at the department colloquia.
 2. Exercise critical thinking and communication skills. This is achieved through discussions of articles, written assignments, and prepared oral presentations.
 3. Develop professional skills. This is achieved through class sessions dedicated to grant writing, publishing, ethics, and the student-supervisor relationship, among other topics.

Course Calendar (subject to revision)

Term I (September—December 2017)

SEPT 06: Introductions and Organization
13: Professional Development
20: **Module 1 —Balshine**
27: Module 1 continued.
OCT 04: Module 1 continued.
11: *Fall Break – No Class*
18: **Module 2 — Milliken**
25: Module 2 continued.
NOV 01: Module 2 continued.
08: Professional Development
15: **Module 3 —Sun**
22: Module 3 continued.
29: Module 3 continued.
Dec 06: Professional Development

Term II (January—April 8

JAN 03: **Module 4 —Trainor**
10: Module 4 continued
17: Module 4 continued
24: Professional Development
31: **Module 5 — Bennett**
FEB 07: Module 5 continued.
14: Module 5 continued.
21: **Spring Break**
28: Professional Development
MAR 07: Professional Development
14: **Module 6 — Goldreich**
21: Module 6 continued.
28: Module 6 continued.
APR 04: 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. You must attend all classes and at least 80% of all Department Colloquia.

Grading. Your final grade will be based on:

1. Each module instructor will provide a grade out of 100 points based on their grading scheme. For most modules 5 or 6 students will be presenters—their grade will be based on their presentation. 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. The remaining students will submit both a draft and a final short paper—their grade will be based 30% on their draft, and 70% of their final written paper.
2. Attendance at a minimum of 80% of department colloquia.

Assignment	#	%
1. Module Grades: Presentation	2	45
2. Module Grades: Paper	4	45
3. Colloquium attendance	ongoing	10
Total		100

Deadlines. Individual instructors will specify deadlines for their assignments. Penalties for late assignments will be determined by each instructor.

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>>.

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.