

**Psychology 3VV3  
Course Outline  
Fall, 2012**

**Instructor:** Dr. Bruce Milliken ([millike@mcmaster.ca](mailto:millike@mcmaster.ca))  
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**When and Where:** Monday, Wednesday 11:30 – 12:20 BSB 120  
Friday 1:30 – 2:20 BSB 120

**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 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 22nd, 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 either to write two short (two page) position papers each worth 12.5% of the final grade, or to give an oral presentation worth 25% of the final grade. These position papers and oral presentations will be based on selected research articles that we discuss on Friday afternoons. 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	20%
Position Papers / Presentation	25%
Web Discussion	10%
Friday participation	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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 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. Readings may be added or deleted as the instructor sees fit.

Week beginning ...	Chapter	Special Dates
September 3	1	
September 10		
September 17	2	
September 24	3	
October 1	5	
October 8	7	Oct 8: No class (Thanksgiving)
October 15	8	
October 22	9	Oct 22: Mid-term exam
October 29	TBA	
November 5	12	
November 12	14	
November 19	Special Topic -TBA	
November 26	Special Topic -TBA	

**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.