PNB 2XD3 – Integrated Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour – Winter 2018

Course Objectives

1. Improve written skills
2. Encourage students to integrate in their thinking

This course is different from many other courses you may have taken. The primary goal here is to improve your writing; a secondary goal is to enhance your understanding. As such, it is the clarity of writing that is being evaluated. In order to do this effectively, the writing assignments are highly constrained with very specific requirements. While some of the requirements may seem trivial, each is equally important (word count, page formatting, sentence structure).

Instructors: Dr. David I. Shore, Brett Cochran, Ruth Hofrichter, Ruth Kim, Andrew LoGiudice, Lisa Lorentz, David Prete, Nadia Wong.

Guest lecturers: TBA.

Primary Contact: pnb2xx3@psychology.mcmaster.ca

Class place & time: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday @ 13:30 in BSB/B136

Tutorial place & time: Tuesday @ 13:30. Location TBA

Dr. Shore’s Office hours: Monday between 14:30 and 16:30 starting on January 22. Given that office hours are so rarely attended, students must sign up on the google form available from Avenue2Learn before class on Monday.

TA office hours: To be determined.

Required Texts:

• Various articles posted to Avenue and retrieved from the Library.
### Evaluation breakdown (see Master Rubric posted on Avenue2Learn):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of assessment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>2 + final resubmission</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Précis writing</td>
<td>4 + final resubmission</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Editing</td>
<td>As needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Reflection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>+/- one letter grade</td>
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### Grading Policy:

The instructors reserve the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course. Final grades may also be adjusted up or down on a class-wide basis depending on overall performance. Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and the details will be announced in class. Attention is drawn to 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 on these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy.

### Missed Work Policy:

See: [https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/](https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/)

When using the MSAF, report your absence to the course e-mail address (see above). You must speak to the instructor in person before or after class within 5 business days. Grades will be adjusted accordingly. Misuse of the MSAF form to gain an unfair advantage will be considered a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy.

### Communication Policy:

E-mail communications must originate from your designated McMaster e-mail account. Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, the e-mail will be sent to this account. You should monitor this account regularly. E-mail sent from third-party providers (yahoo, hotmail, cogeco, sympatico, gmail, etc.) will not be answered. The fastest avenue for feedback concerning course-related problems is the course e-mail address <pnb2xx3@psychology.mcmaster.ca>. This will be monitored daily and a response will be sent within two business days. Instructors and TAs cannot return long distance telephone calls.

In this course we will be using Avenue2Learn. Students should be aware that,
when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Students should also be aware that they will be providing feedback and evaluations of other students. In doing this, your identity will be communicated to the other student. Be honest in your assessment of their material and provide constructive comments. Do not inflate your assessments as the instructors will consider this inappropriate and it will give the submitting student a false sense of accomplishment. We will talk, during lectures, on how to edit and evaluate a piece of written work and you will be given clear guidelines on how to conduct your assessment. Any concerns or questions regarding this process should be address to the instructors of the course as soon as possible.
Essay Writing: You will submit two essays during the term. Each essay will capture and communicate an idea related to Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour. This is an expository essay focused on teaching and informing the audience. The essay must include at least 5 citations (more is better) to the primary literature.

You are allowed 5 paragraphs: a lead paragraph with the hook as the first sentence and the thesis as the last; three body paragraphs representing the beginning, middle and end of the exposition of your thesis; and, a final paragraph with your conclusion as the first sentence. The thesis, the topic sentence of each body paragraph, and the conclusion sentence must be simple sentences without subordinate clauses or phrases. 750 words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay 1</th>
<th>Essay 2</th>
<th>Item due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
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<td>Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Lead and Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>First draft (extended outline &amp; cue cards)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>PEER EDIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Final Submission including:</td>
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1. A cover page with your name and student number; course name, professor name, and TA name; the title, assignment number, and date of submission; and, word count.
2. The extended outline with citations (on the back of the cover).
3. The rubric posted on avenue (page 2; single sided)
4. A reflection on your writing process including major decisions and sources of feedback (max one page).
5. The essay itself (on a new page), including proper in-text and full APA citations.
6. An annotated bibliography—two articles to a page; each article has one sentence each for: question, hypothesis, method, results, implications.
7. A copy of your first draft & your original lead and outline.
8. Appendix A. All edited versions of your first draft (your own and others)
9. Appendix B. All edited version of your original lead and outline.

No spiral submissions, no duo tangs, no folders. Sections 1-7 should be stapled together with the cover page as the front page. Final submissions will be delivered to a physical drop box in the Psychology Building before 5:00 pm on the Friday noted above. All submissions should be double spaced.

An overall score for essay writing will be computed based on these two submissions and your final resubmission.
**Précis Writing:** A précis is an accurate summary of a text or lecture—it should include all of the important ideas, and avoid all of the secondary ideas. The writing must be your own—your own words, phrases, and sentences. An excellent précis will capture the thesis, outline, and conclusion of the original work. You may cite work other than the original work, but it is not required. Your précis will be 100 words.

The entire submission must be double sided. On one side, provide your name and student number; course name, professor name, and TA name (in bold); the title (including the APA citation), précis number, and date of submission; running head, and word count; and, this rubric:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Précis</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
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<td>Clutter</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Summary Sentence</td>
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<td>Format</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
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EACH SUBMISSION MUST BE ONLY ONE SHEET OF PAPER.

Précis are due by 5:00 pm to the dropbox in the Psychology Building on the following Fridays on the following topics:

- Jan 18: Negal article
- Feb 11: Representing the external world
- March 8: Memory
- March 22: TBA

NOTE: Lectures slides from the guest lectures will NOT be available to students. Also, there will be no electronic devices allowed in the guest lectures—no laptops, phones, tablets, etc. If you have a concern with this policy, please address it to the instructor as soon as possible.

An overall score for précis writing will be based on these four (4) submissions and your grade on one resubmitted précis.

You must keep your graded copies of each assignment for submission in the final package. Additionally, you are responsible for recording your grade for each assignment on the master rubric for the course.
**Final Submission:** The final submission is due on Monday April 9th in the dropbox in the Psychology building before 5 pm. The submission will be covered by the Master Rubric (will be posted on Avenue later this term)—you are responsible for entering all grades that you have available to you (Précis, Essays, Points). The submission will consist of a reflection (max 500 words), a précis resubmission, and an essay resubmission. You must include all relevant previous drafts of your work and all graded copies of previous submissions.

**Peer Editing:** Peer editing forms a foundational component of this course. You learn from reading your colleagues writing, and you help them improve at the same time. You are expected to edit as many submissions as you can throughout the term. Each time you edit another student’s work you will receive a point; each time you submit your work to another student you will also receive a point. All artifacts will be entered into an artifact verifier on-line. It is your responsibility to keep track of your points and enter them in the appropriate place on the master rubric.

**Quizzes:** There will be a number of multiple-choice quizzes throughout the term. Quizzes cover the required readings on writing (Greene, Zinsser, Strunk & White, Ghilic) and the primary sources assigned by guest lecturers. These quizzes will be conducted in class using an iClicker. You must ensure that you bring your iClicker to class and that the iClicker is registered with the relevant website. The questions are meant to be easy if you read the required reading and attend the relevant lecture/tutorial.

Points from peer editing and quizzes will be used to compute your performance on the third component of the course. The value will depend on how many points are distributed. You are responsible for keeping track of your own points. Anybody found misrepresenting their points will be assigned zero for this section of the course.