PNB 2XA3 – Perception & Cognition – Fall 2019 – Course Syllabus v.1a

NOTE: Please see the PNB-2XA3 AvenueToLearn page for UPDATED syllabus information!

Instructor

Dr. Scott Watter
Office: Psychology, Room 408
Phone: 905 525 9140 x.23031
Office Hours: by appointment

Contact

To contact the instructor, please EMAIL: watter@mcmaster.ca

- this is by far the quickest and most reliable way to contact me! Don't leave voicemail – just email me please. To get a quick response, and to make sure I see your email, please be sure to do the following:

1. Please put "2XA3" in the SUBJECT line of your email – I get a LOT of email every day, and this will help me notice yours and get back to you quickly.

2. Send email from your @mcmaster.ca account!! - gmail, outlook, yahoo, etc. is often filtered as spam. It becomes VERY difficult to keep track of 100+ students via gmail accounts, when many usernames /aliases are ambiguous with respect to your personal identity at McMaster. Emails from non-mcmaster addresses may experience substantial delays in getting a response (if any), depending on how quickly we can figure out who you are.

Course Assistance

Please post any course-related questions to Avenue (click on PNB-2XA3 and go to the Discussion tab). Rather than emailing the professor or one of the individual TAs you should post your question on Avenue (unless it is of a personal nature). Others will likely have the same question and will benefit from seeing the answer. Your TAs will be monitoring the Avenue discussion board several times daily and you will get a fast response this way.

Lectures

Tutorial Sections & Teaching Assistants

Wednesday, 10:30-11:20.

T01 - HH-217 – Payal Patel - patep20@mcmaster.ca
T02 - JHE-210 – Melissa Furtado - furtadom@mcmaster.ca
T03 - PC-335 – David Prete - preted@mcmaster.ca
T04 - ITB-139 – Darren Kenney - kenneydm@mcmaster.ca
T05 - DSB-B105 – Emil Apostolov - apostole@mcmaster.ca

Please note you MUST attend the tutorial section you are assigned/enrolled in! We will run exams in tutorial sections, and take attendance there - if you are at the wrong one, you will be marked as absent, which will be a problem for you and me. They are all at the same time, please attend your allocated tutorial section! Tutorial sessions will usually involve presentation and discussion of NEW material not covered in lectures (eg, kind of a fourth lecture/discussion session per week), when we are not having a midterm exam.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using McMaster's online course content system, Avenue to Learn. 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.

The course website is available to registered students by logging into Avenue: http://avenue.mcmaster.ca
You will need to learn how to use Avenue to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. Detailed instructions for logging in and using Avenue can be found on the website above.

Slides from the lectures will be available on Avenue as PDF files, AFTER the lectures.

Course Objectives

Students should gain a strong foundation in cognitive psychology, including (but not limited to) topics on Perception, Object Recognition, Selective Attention, Divided Attention, Cognitive Control, Working Memory, Long Term Memory, Categories and Concepts, Language, Knowledge Representation, Judgement and Decision Making, and Problem Solving.
Materials and Fees

Course textbook:
Cognition: Exploring the science of the mind, by Daniel Reisberg, 7th Ed., published by Norton. Previous editions or alternative textbooks are ok, HOWEVER in-class references to readings and chapter/page numbers will only reference the current edition of the assigned textbook. Using an alternative textbook will be more work on your part, and YOUR responsibility to figure out appropriate reading references, etc. Some supplementary readings will be added as the term progresses, and will be provided via Avenue.

Software:
You do not need to purchase software for this course.

MacID:
Please see http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts for information on obtaining and activating your MacID. You will need to activate your MacID to access AvenueToLearn, email, etc. for this course.

AvenueToLearn:
You should check the PNB-2XA3 discussion group on Avenue on a daily basis for questions and answers, and also check the Course Announcements section.

Assessment

There will be 4 separate exams to attend: three midterm exams during tutorial time, and a final exam in the final exam period, which will be a combination of Midterm 4 and a cumulative final exam. Exams may be a mixture of written and multiple choice questions, including questions where you need to work out mathematical statistical problems by hand, and then report (written) or choose the best alternative (multiple choice) based on your calculations. You may bring only pencils and erasers suitable for multiple-choice scan sheets, and your McMaster student ID card to the exams. The grading scheme is described below. The instructor reserves the right to alter the evaluation scheme if necessary. Percentage scores will follow the standard McMaster letter grading scheme.

- Midterms 1, 2, 3 and 4: 45% total
  - 15% each, we count best 3 out of 4
  - note “Midterm 4” is combined with the final exam

- Final Cumulative Exam (all course content, cumulative): 40%

- “Reading A Scientific Article” assignments x 2: 2.5% each = 5%
  - (more information to come – see Avenue for details)

- Experiment Participation & Summary/Write-Up Assignment: 10% total
  - 2.5% each, participate in TWO experiments & submit short summaries
  - 5% write up ONE of these two, discussing cognitive principles involved
  - (more information to come – see Avenue for details)
Changes in course requirements

The university reserves 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 McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and note any changes.

The professor reserves the right to change any and all course requirements if the need should arise. Any change in the course requirements will be posted on the webpage and emailed to the class, and the details will be announced in class. Any concerns about announced changes should be addressed with the professor as soon as the changes are announced.

Academic Integrity Policy

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Missed Assessment

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015. If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean’s office.

All excuses for missed assessment must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty. It is then also YOUR responsibility to speak with your professor as soon as possible. Missed midterms (with approved absence) will sit a make-up exam (possibly of a different form, including written or in-person oral exam), or score zero. Missed midterm exams will NOT be re-weighted to the final exam.
## Schedule – Lectures, Topics, Tutorials, Exams, Assignments, etc...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep 3,5</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 9,10,12</td>
<td>Visual Perception</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 16,17,19</td>
<td>Object Recognition</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 23,24,26</td>
<td>Attention</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 30, Oct 1,3</td>
<td>Working Memory</td>
<td>MIDTERM 1: Wed 2 Oct</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 7,8,10</td>
<td>Long Term Memory 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>Oct 14…</td>
<td>(MID TERM BREAK)</td>
<td></td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 21,22,24</td>
<td>Long Term Memory 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 4,5,7</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 11,12,14</td>
<td>Visual Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 18,19,21</td>
<td>Judgement &amp; Reasoning</td>
<td>MIDTERM 3: Wed 20 Nov</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 25,26,28</td>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dec 2,3</td>
<td>Consciousness</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Exam scheduled by the Registrar in the final exam period – to be scheduled.