Psych 2H03: Human Learning and Cognition  
Winter 2019

**Instructor:** Dr. Ellen MacLellan  
**Email:** maclele@mcmaster.ca  
**Phone:** 905 525-9140 x24824  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Teaching Assistants:**  
Ben Scodnick (scodnbc@mcmaster.ca)  
Emily Levitt (levite1@mcmaster.ca)  
Sharmila Sreetharan (sreets@mcmaster.ca)  
Isaac Kinley (kinleyid@mcmaster.ca)

**Student Mentor:** Daniela Bufi (bufid@mcmaster.ca)

**TA Office Hours** will be held three times a week in the Psychology Building Lobby. Available office hours will be posted on the course website

**Emailing:**

Please use **only your McMaster email address** when emailing the course instructor and teaching assistants. Other addresses often get spam filtered, and will never be read. Please do not send email directly from Avenue unless you set the “reply to” your McMaster email address. **Please include 2H03 in your subject line.**

**Classes:** Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 11:30-12:20 pm, in JHE 376.

**Avenue:** The course website is available to registered students by logging into Avenue to Learn: [http://avenue.mcmaster.ca.](http://avenue.mcmaster.ca) You will need to learn how to use Avenue to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. All PowerPoint slides from the lectures will be made available on Avenue as pdfs, before lecture if possible. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with class announcements made on Avenue.

**Note:** 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 email 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.

**Course content:** In this course you will be introduced to the major themes in the field of Cognitive Psychology, including topics in perception, attention, memory, concepts, language, imagery, problem solving and reasoning.
**Required Text:**

**Note:** The ZAPS software that accompanies the textbook is not required. There may be electronic versions of the text available to buy or rent.

Please note that this is a new edition. Several copies of the 6th edition are likely available to buy. Please note that some chapters have been restructured and new material has been added in the 7th edition. The exams will be based on the 7th edition, so it is completely YOUR responsibility to ensure you are not missing anything from the newest edition, and that you are aligning the chapters appropriately.

**Lecture i<clicker Points**

During lecture you will be given the opportunity to earn i<clicker points. The total number of points earned throughout the term will determine your final course participation grade.

**Register your i<clicker:**

To register your i<clicker, go to https://app.reef-education.com

If this is the first time you have used i<clicker you will be asked to create an account. You will be asked for a student ID. This is your MACID that you use to login to avenue (the first part of your McMaster email address). Please DO NOT use your student number. Once you have created an account, or if you have previously created an account, **you must then select this course** (Psych 2H03).

Failure you to bring your i<clicker to class, or failure to register it properly, will result in a grade of zero being assigned for the relevant lecture(s).

**Evaluation**

The assessment for this course will be based, in part, on three midterms, worth 45% in total, and a cumulative final worth 35%. All exams will be multiple-choice format.

**Midterms:** Midterms 1, 2 and 3 will be held in the regular classroom, during Friday’s scheduled lecture time. Midterms will be held on February 1, March 1 and March 29. Each exam will cover approximately 1/3 of the course content. If you miss any of these exams, your final exam will be re-weighted. See table below. **MISSING MIDTERMS IS NOT RECOMMENDED** as a host of empirical evidence suggests that distributed testing is superior to massed testing with respect to long-term learning gains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you write:</th>
<th>Exams are worth:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Midterm Exams</td>
<td>Unit Exams worth 30%; Final Exam worth 50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you miss a midterm, and submit an MSAF, you must contact the professor immediately.

If you miss a midterm without either an MSAF or by prior arrangement with the instructor, you will receive zero for that exam.

**McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):**

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”.

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid is 3 days.
- The upper limit for which an MSAF is less than 25% of the course weight.
- There is a limit of one MSAF per term.

**Cumulative Final Exam:** The cumulative final will be held during the exam period and will be scheduled by the registrar’s office. You must write the final exam to pass the course.

**Note:** Lectures will include information that is not presented in the textbook and the textbook will include information that is not covered in lecture. Students will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, as well as all of the material in the textbook (unless stated otherwise).

**Assignment:** One assignment worth 5% of the final course grade will be described in detail in a separate document.

**Class participation:** We will use i<clickers for class participation randomly throughout the term. During any given lecture, if i<clickers are used, you will be awarded 1 participation point provided you answer at least 1 question. The total number of points earned will determine your participation grade in the course as a weighted sum totalling 10%. Participation points are awarded solely on in-class participation and cannot be made up.

**Research Credit:** In addition, you will be required to participate in up to 2 experiments, worth 5% (2.5 % each) of your final grade.

**Summary:**

Midterms: 15% + 15% + 15% = 45%
Assignment: 5%
Cumulative Final: 35%
Experiment participation: 5%
Class participation: 10%
Total = 100%

**Missed or Late Assessment:**

The penalty for late assignments is 1% per day.

**Experimental Participation:**

You will have the opportunity to earn 2 research participation credits, worth up to 5% of your final grade (1 credit = 2.5 points).

**Note:** If you do not wish to participate as a research subject for any reason, you may still earn your research participation credit by *observing* experiments. If you would like to choose this option, please see the course coordinator, Dr. Michelle Cadieux, in PC 110.

**SONA:** The system that the department uses to track research participation is called SONA, which can be accessed at [https://mcmaster.SONA-systems.com](https://mcmaster.SONA-systems.com). To access SONA for the first time, select the “Request Account” option on the right of your screen and enter your name, student number, and McMaster email address. You will also be asked to pick your courses. **Please select Psych 2H03 from the list.** After a short delay, you will receive an email from SONA with a username and temporary password that you can use to access the website. You should change your temporary password to something more memorable by selecting “My Profile”. Make sure your student number is entered correctly! Note: You must activate your McMaster ID before you can create a SONA account. To activate your ID, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/uts/macid

**Completing Your Research Participation Credit:**

When you log into SONA for the first time, you will be asked to fill out a short survey. This information is used to filter out any experiments for which you are not eligible.

To register for an experiment, select “Study Sign-Up” from the main SONA page. You will be presented with a list of currently available experiments, with a short description given about each. Before selecting an experiment, be sure to read the description carefully, making special note of any specific criteria for participation (for example, some experiments only allow females to participate, while others may require subjects who speak a second language). When you have found an experiment that you would like to participate in, select “View Time Slots for this Study” to view available timeslots, then select “Sign-Up” to register for a time that fits your schedule. You will receive a confirmation email with the details of your selection. Be sure to write down the experiment number, experimenter name, location, and telephone extension from this email.

After you have completed an experiment, you will be given a paper slip verifying your participation. This slip is for your records only—in the event that an experiment is not
credited to your SONA account, this slip is your proof of participation. Shortly after completing an experiment, you should notice that your SONA account has been credited by the experimenter.

**IMPORTANT:** Your participation in experiments is for the purpose of exposing you to various procedures used to investigate current issues in the field of cognition. It is therefore recommended that you select experiments that are relevant to the field of cognition. If in doubt, you can contact the experimenter to double-check. For educational purposes, at the end of the experiment, ask the experimenter the following questions:

**What is the research question being addressed?**
**What are the independent variables being manipulated?**
**What is the dependent variable(s) being measured?**
**What is the specific hypothesis?**

**Note:** If you fail to show up for two experiments, you will lose your option to complete the research participation credit. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend a scheduled experiment, please contact the experimenter as soon as possible.

---

**Course Outline Below**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Object Recognition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Attention</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM 1</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Memory Acquisition/Working Memory</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Acquisition &amp; Retrieval</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>MIDTERM RECESS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>Remembering Complex Events</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM 2</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Language/Concepts</td>
<td>8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Visual Knowledge</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Judgment and Reasoning</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Problem Solving and Intelligence</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued on next page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>MIDTERM 3</td>
<td>Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Conscious and Unconscious Thought</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Last Class</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Period</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td>All Chapters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Changes in course outline:** Details of the course outline may be subject to change. If dates are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and announced in class.
Changes in course requirements: 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 announced in class.

Special Needs: If you have special needs, please contact the instructor so accommodations can be made.

Academic Integrity Policy: It is your responsibility to be aware of the University Academic Integrity Policy. Cases of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: copying or the use of unauthorized aids in tests, examinations and laboratory reports; plagiarism, i.e., the submission of work that is not one’s own; aiding and abetting another student's dishonesty giving false information for the purposes of gaining admission or credit; giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines; and/or forging or falsifying McMaster University documents. Students who infringe on the resolutions of the University Academic Integrity policy will be treated according to the published policy.