Psych2H03: Human Learning and Cognition

Winter 2021
(as of June 2020)

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

Classes: TBA


Note: A digital copy of the textbook may be available at the Campus Bookstore.

Teaching Assistants: TBA

TA Office Hours: TBA

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, and problem solving and reasoning.

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.

Avenue: The course website is available to registered students by logging into Avenue to Learn: 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.

**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://www1.iclicker.com/register-clicker/](https://www1.iclicker.com/register-clicker/)

Your student ID is your MACID that you will use to login to avenue (the first part of your McMaster email address). Failure you to bring your personal i<clicker to class, or failure to register it properly, will result in a grade of zero being assigned for the relevant lecture.

**Evaluation:**

The assessment for this course will be based, in part, on three midterms, worth 40% in total, and a cumulative final worth 40%. All exams will be multiple-choice format.

Midterms 1, 2 and 3 will be held during scheduled lecture time. 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:** Students will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, as well as the material in the textbook.

Two assignments, each worth 5% of the final course grade, will be described in detail in a separate document.

10% of the course grade will be based on in-class participation.

In addition, you will have the option to participate in up to 2 experiments, worth 5% (2.5 % each). If you choose this option, the weight of your final exam will be decreased to 35%.
Summary:

Midterms: 10% + 15% + 15% = 40%
Assignment 1: 5%
Assignment 2: 5%
Cumulative Final: 40
Class participation: 10%
Total = 100%

Missed or Late Assessment:

If an absence for assessment has been registered, you MUST contact the instructor as soon as possible.

If you miss a midterm, and submit an MSAF, you must contact the professor immediately. There will be NO reweighting of exams. You will be required to write a makeup exam, to be scheduled within a week of the missed exam.

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.

Experimental Participation:

You will have the opportunity to earn 2 research participation credits, worth up to 5% of towards the weighting your final exam (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.sonasystems.com](https://mcmaster.sonasystems.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](http://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 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates - Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Attention</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Memory: Part 1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TBA</strong></td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Memory: Part 2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Memory: Part 3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>MIDTERM RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TBA</strong></td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 6, 7, 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Concepts</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Judgment and Reasoning</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Problem Solving and Intelligence</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Visual Knowledge</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Continued on next page</strong></td>
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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.

Note: The university may also change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If any 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.

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

McMaster University Statement on Inclusivity and Academic Integrity:

The University values integrity, inclusiveness and teamwork, and strives to support the personal and collective growth of the McMaster student community.

These values are foundational to ensuring campus environments – both in-person and virtual – are conducive to personal wellbeing and academic success.

Inclusivity and a Culture of Respect
As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience and the responsibility to demonstrate respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. Expectations are described in Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

Additional information about the Code and netiquette can be found here.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty**

As a McMaster student, you are expected to exhibit honesty and ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. The academic credentials that you earn are rooted in the 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 which reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”) and/or suspension of 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.

Some helpful information can be found here.