

PSY 675
Advanced Topics – Human Memory
Fall 2012

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Should you have difficulty communicating through eCollege or understanding what is expected, please contact me or CTIS.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT DETAILS

The best way to contact me is through e-mail: benton.pierce@tamuc.edu. You may also phone me at my office. When you send me e-mail, it is important to put psy675 at the beginning of your subject line. I have a separate folder for all of the e-mails that you will send me.

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Office Hours: Wed. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.,

SYLLABUS

Course Textbook:

Memory (2009)
(A. Baddeley, M. W. Eysenck, & M. C. Anderson): Psychology Press.

In PSY 675, we will cover the scientific study of human memory. We will use *Memory* by Baddeley, Eysenck and Anderson, which I think you will find is both comprehensive and covers each individual topic in sufficient depth.

What you will learn:

1. A brief history of memory research, an understanding of the basic concepts of memory, and the various laboratory and neuroimaging methods used to study human memory.
2. An understanding of the various forms or “systems” of memory, including short-term memory, working memory, episodic memory, and semantic memory, along with some of the empirical evidence that supports the existence of these different forms of memory.

3. Various factors that affect human learning, including the importance of distributed practice and the value of testing as a method of learning. We will also discuss implicit learning, including basic concepts such as classical conditioning, priming, and procedural learning, along with understanding how learning occurs in the brain.
4. An understanding of autobiographical memory, including methods of how we study it and how it may be structured. We will also discuss various autobiographical memory phenomena, including flashbulb memories, false and recovered memories, and various types of autobiographical memory errors.
5. The factors that affect successful retrieval, including the importance of cues and context. We will also learn various accounts of recognition memory, including signal detection theory and dual-process theories. In addition, we will learn the basic concept of source monitoring.
6. An understanding of the principles that underlie forgetting, both when it is not our intention to forget (i.e., incidental forgetting), and when we do wish to forget (i.e., motivated forgetting).
7. An understanding of the various types of amnesia and theories that account for this syndrome in amnesic patients.
8. How memory develops in children and how it is affected by aging. We will also learn how Alzheimer's disease affects various forms of memory.
9. How memory relates to eyewitness testimony, including an understanding of how we remember faces. We will also learn the procedures used by police with eyewitnesses.
10. An understanding of prospective memory, in which we need to carry out an intention to do something in the future.
11. Finally, we will learn various methods that have been shown to improve memory, including techniques that can be applied to the classroom.

About course format and assignments:

Readings and summaries

There will be an additional article assigned for each chapter. Students are expected to read and write a two page summary over each article. The articles are available in doc sharing via e-College

1. These two-page summaries must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. every Monday. I will **not** accept late summaries.
2. There will be 15 summaries in total. The lowest summary score will be discarded. A missed summary will be counted as the lowest score.
3. Please try to keep your summaries at two pages. However, you may use single space and 11 point fonts.
4. Each summary must be composed in Microsoft Word, and submitted to the drop box with a file name. If your first name is Mary and your last name is Smith, then your file name is MsS1 for Summary 1.
5. Your summaries should include an overview of the topic, along with a synopsis of the empirical data that supports current theories. In addition, you should briefly discuss major controversies in the field that are currently being debated. It is important for you to demonstrate a basic understanding of the topic and the scientific evidence that has accumulated. It is not important for you to provide an exhaustive review of individual studies.

Review Paper

1. Each student in this class will be required to submit a review paper at the end of the semester. This paper should focus on some topic within one of the chapters we will cover. You should select a topic that you find interesting and expand on it.
2. The paper should be approximately 12-15 pages in length.
3. Although the paper may lead to a specific research question, it is not necessary that you submit a research proposal.
4. One suggested way to approach this paper is to select a topic that is currently being debated and to discuss alternative theoretical accounts for the specific memory phenomenon and the empirical evidence that supports these accounts.
5. By 10/23, each student needs to talk to the instructor about the intended topic for the paper.
6. By 12/3, students' review papers are due.

Exams

There will be two exams in the course, including a mid-term and a final. These exams will consist of essay questions.

Grade evaluation (100 points total)

Your final grade is based on three requirements.

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| 1. Article reviews | 25 points |
| 2. Review paper | 20 points |
| 3. Midterm exam | 25 points |
| 4. Final exam | 30 points |

Final grades are determined by the scale below.

90-100 pts	A
80-89 pts	B
70-79 pts	C
60-69 pts	D
< 60 pts	F

Basics

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts somewhat as the course proceeds. Therefore, it is vital that you stay involved by accessing the course website frequently and reading any updates on announcements, etc. You will be held responsible for any change in plans announced online.

The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that dishonesty (broadly defined) is not allowed. For example, if your paper contains other researchers' ideas, you need to reference them. If you quote another researcher verbatim, you need to give the page numbers of the quoted material and reference. You should not copy sentences and paragraph structures from other written documents and the web. You should not copy other students' papers, or write papers that are substantially similar to those written by other students. If you have any questions about what constitutes dishonesty, please ask me. Or, as the university likes me to say: "All students enrolled at

the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook). Also, note that “Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee.” Their phone is (903)886-5835.

Tentative schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	8/27-9/02	Course organization & Introduction of key concepts in memory Paper: Banaji & Crowder	Chapter 1 & Paper 1
2	9/03-9/09	Short-term memory Paper: Melton	Chapter 2 & Paper 2
	9/03	Paper 1 Summary due	
3	9/10-9/16	Working memory Paper: Engle, Cantor & Carullo	Chapter 3 & Paper 3
	9/10	Paper 2 summary due	
4	9/17-9/23	Learning Paper: Schacter, Cooper & Delaney	Chapter 4 & Paper 4
	9/17	Paper 3 summary due	
5	9/24-9/30	Episodic memory: Organizing and remembering Paper: Craik & Lockhart	Chapter 5 & paper 5
	9/24	Paper 4 summary due	
6	10/01-10/07	Semantic memory and stored knowledge Paper: Brewer	Chapter 6 & Paper 6
	10/01	Paper 5 summary due	
7	10/08-10/14	Autobiographical memory Paper: Neisser	Chapter 7 & Paper 7
	10/08	Paper 6 summary due	

8	10/15-10/21 10/15 10/19	Retrieval: Paper: Gabrieli Paper 7 summary due Midterm Exam due	Chapter 8 & Paper 8
9	10/22-10/28 10/22	Incidental forgetting Paper: Levy & Anderson Paper 8 summary due	Chapter 9 & paper 9
10	10/29-11/4 10/29	Motivated forgetting Paper: Erdelyi Paper 9 summary due	Chapter 10 & Paper 10
11	11/5-11/11 11/5	Amnesia Paper: Baxenfield Paper 10 summary due	Chapter 11 & Paper 11
12	11/12-11/18 11/12	Memory in childhood Paper: Richmond & Nelson Paper 11 summary due	Chapter 12 & Paper 12
13	11/19-11/25 11/19	Memory and aging Paper: Salthouse Paper 12 summary due	Chapter 13 & Paper 13
14	11/26-12/2 11/26	Eyewitness testimony Paper: Loftus Paper 13 summary due	Chapter 14 & Paper 14
15	12/03-12/09 12/03	Prospective memory & Improving your memory Papers: Einstein & McDaniel; Roediger & Karpicke (You may review either paper) Paper 15 summary due	Chapters 15 & 16: Papers 15 & 16
16	12/10 12/14	Review paper due by 4:00 p.m. Final Exam due by 4:00 p.m.	