

PSY 697: False Memory (Winter Mini 2012-13)

Instructor: Curt A. Carlson, Ph.D., Binnion 208, curt.carlson@tamuc.edu

Office hours: Due to the online nature of this course, it would be best to post questions in the virtual office in eCollege, or email them to me.

Required text: none; rather, I will provide copies of chapters from *The Science of False Memory*

Recommended book: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition)

Course Description

This course will provide you with the opportunity to learn about the basic theory and some applications of false memory research. For the first week, you will be introduced to several types and theories of false memory, and then you will choose a topic (from five options) on which to conduct your literature review. You will write a paper as a result of this process, and you will learn how to write it in proper APA (American Psychological Association) style, which is mandatory for manuscripts submitted for publication in the field of psychology.

Readings and Discussion Posts

As you conduct your literature review, you will need to summarize two of the empirical articles you find and post each summary to the appropriate discussion board in eCollege. **The first summary is due by December 28th, and the second is due by January 4th.** You will also be required to read others' article summaries during these two weeks. This way, everyone in the class will get some exposure to each topic area being covered in each literature review. It will also help you to deeply digest at least two of the articles of your review, which no doubt will lead to a better ultimate paper.

No Quizzes/Exams

There will be no formal quizzes or exams in this course, but there may be one or more exercises involving APA style.

APA Style Training

During the first week of this course, you will receive several items that will educate you about current APA style writing requirements. These may include an exercise or two to assess your knowledge of APA style. The information will be very useful for the writing of your paper.

Literature Review Paper

You need to conduct a literature review of a topic involving false memory. **By end of day on Friday December 21st**, you must select one topic from the following chapters (from *The Science of False Memory*, Brainerd & Reyna, 2005): (a) laboratory research with adults, (b) developmental research with children and adolescents, (c) adult interviewing and eyewitness identification, (d) child interviewing and testimony, and (e) false memory in psychotherapy. Once you choose the topic, I will send you the selected chapter. In reading the chapter, you will see citations of articles to include in your literature review. Your review will focus on a more specific topic from your selected chapter, but you won't know what this is until you read the chapter I send you. From that point

onward, you will work independently on your paper, being sure to post a summary of two of your articles to the discussion board (and also you should be reading others' posts; see above).

I will be happy to review a rough draft of your literature review, but it should be fairly complete before I see it. In other words, you should not send me a draft until all, or almost all, relevant articles have been read and integrated into the paper. I won't expect it to be "polished", but it should appear fairly complete in order for me to be able to give the best feedback for completion. Please email drafts to my email address listed above, and allow 48 hours for me to respond.

The final paper must be in current APA style (6th edition), and should reference approximately 10 readings (primarily empirical articles, but book chapters are acceptable). The paper should be approximately 10 pages in length, not including title page or references. No abstract is required. It is due by **midnight on the 9th of January**. The last class day of Winter Mini technically is the 7th, but I am extending your paper deadline beyond this a couple of days to give you a little extra time.

To get you started with APA style, check out the following tutorial:

<http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>. Not all of it will be relevant for this paper because it involves a full description of an empirical study, but it will still be helpful in getting you started.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following: Discussion posts (20 points: 10 for each summary) and the paper (80 points).

Though I will try to abide by the following schedule, it is possible that it may change.

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|------------------|--|
| Dec. 17-21 | Introductions, APA style, False Memory Types and Theories; choose from five topics by end of Friday the 21st and I will send you chapter |
| Dec. 22-28 | Read chapter for your topic, begin literature review, post Article Summary 1 |
| Dec. 29 - Jan. 4 | Continue literature review, post Article Summary 2 |
| Jan. 5-9 | Finish literature review – submit to eCollege dropbox by midnight on the 9 th |

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library, Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu