

PSY 621: Advanced Cognition: Memory (Fall, 2015)

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

Class meets: W 4:30-7:10p, Henderson 207

Office hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm

Text: *Memory (2nd edition, 2015)*, by Baddeley, Eysenck, & Anderson

This course provides a foundation of knowledge about human memory from the perspective of cognitive psychology. It will include such topics as working memory, learning, episodic memory, and semantic memory. Both basic (e.g., memory models) and more applied topics (e.g., eyewitness memory) will be covered.

The textbook provides the foundational information on which the course is based, but a deeper understanding of the material will be required for you to be successful. Two activities will facilitate an integration of the foundational material and the supplemental readings: 1) Discussion of topics in class, 2) Preparation of answers for the exams. You will receive approximately 10 questions (for each exam) about one week in advance of the exam date. On the day of the exam, you will be provided with approximately three of these questions to answer. Much of what you learn in the course will come from the time you spend preparing answers to all the questions.

Grading. Your grade will be based on the following: 1) midterm (30 points), 2) final exam (30), 3) discussion contributions (20), and 5) literature review presentation (20).

Attendance. You will lose points for missing class without prior approval from the instructor. You will lose points for not attending the entirety of each class, and for falling asleep (or appearing to fall asleep) during class.

Exams. For both the midterm and final exam, you will receive about 10 questions ahead of time to answer, and about three of these will be chosen for the exam itself. On exam day, simply login to eCollege and access the exam in this course during the specified time window, and you will see the three chosen questions. Simply copy and paste your answer to each of the three questions. In other words, you should treat the 10 questions you receive the week before as a take-home exam, so that all answers should be written in time for the three you see on exam day. You are to write these answers by yourself, with no help from others. All answers should be in your own words. Be careful of plagiarism! I will submit all answers to turnitin.com to check for plagiarism, and you risk receiving a zero on the exam, or even more severe penalty, if your answers are deemed by me to be plagiarized to a significant degree.

Participation in discussions. You are expected to contribute to discussion during every class. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to contribute to discussion, but when you do, be sure that you contribute substantive points. Try to avoid expressing feelings or personal opinions. Anecdotes might be appropriate for certain topics, but you should attempt to provide some empirical evidence to support your arguments. Overall, try to stick to empirical evidence that you have gathered from the class readings or other published scientific works.

Presentation. By the date of the midterm exam, you must have a topic approved by me. It can be any topic that falls within the realm of topics covered in this course (based on the below schedule). You will gather and read around 10-15 peer-reviewed research articles on the subject in order to get an idea of what has been done in the area. You will then construct a presentation (e.g., PowerPoint) that describes your findings, which you will give to the class during the last week. It should last about 12 minutes, and you are expected to practice your presentation in advance of class so that you can stick to this time limit. The presentations will provide more depth into the subject matter than what we will garner just from the class readings.

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

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Topic</u>
September 2	Syllabus; Introductions; What is Memory?
September 9	Short-Term and Working Memory
September 16	Learning and Improving Memory

September 23	Episodic Memory
September 30	Semantic Memory
October 7	Retrieval
October 14	MIDTERM EXAM; Paper Topic Approval Deadline
October 21	Incidental Forgetting
October 28	Motivated Forgetting
November 4	Autobiographical Memory
November 11	Eyewitness Memory
November 18	Childhood and Aging Memory
November 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK
December 2	Prospective Memory
December 9	Presentations
December 16	FINAL EXAM

“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, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).”

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