

**PSYCH 398: Research in Memory**  
**Spring 2008** (Course ID: 001577)  
**Tue-Thur 12:30-2:20 PM**  
**Room 3026 (ABC Room)**

**Colin M. MacLeod**  
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**Office hrs: Tue 2:30-4:30 PM**  
(or by appointment)

*Course Website:* <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~cmacleod/Psych398/psych398.htm>  
[**NOT** UW-ACE]  
[to download overheads: *user* = memory *password* = gotcha]

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(office hours: Thur, 11:30-12:30)

### ***Course Description***

A seminar considering various aspects of human memory. Topics will include history of memory research; methods of memory research; short-term and working memory; episodic long-term memory; semantic long-term memory; memory monitoring; metamemory; autobiographical memory; memory and the law; amnesia and memory disorders; and other topics of interest. Emphasis will be placed on methods and theories.

### ***Course Readings***

The textbook is *Human Memory* by Gabriel Radvansky (1<sup>st</sup> ed., available in the Bookstore for ≈\$80). I recommend following the reading schedule in the syllabus. We are going to move through the book quickly in the first part of the term, so you really do not want to fall behind.

### ***Course Evaluation***

There are **5** components to the grading in the course: lecture exam (40%), method exam (10%), research paper (20%), research presentation (20%), and participation (10%).

1. *Lectures, Text, and Exam:* In Weeks 1 through 8 of the course, I will teach an actual course on memory, introducing key concepts and focusing on method issues. Each day, I will talk about a topic, as shown on the attached syllabus. You are responsible for everything in the lectures and in the complementary text readings. On **Thursday, June 26**, there will be an in-class exam covering this material. This will likely include multiple choice and short answer questions, but may also include one or more essays (I will let you know as soon as I know!).
2. *Methods & Test:* In Weeks 9 and 10 of the course, we will consider a variety of methodological issues that arise in memory research (and many other domains of research). These will include goals of science, doing research, knowing the literature, ideas and theories, hypotheses and predictions, variables and operational definitions, experiments and designs, reliability and sensitivity, sampling, control conditions,

counterbalancing and randomization, generalizability and replication, knowing your data (inside and out), and explaining your data. I hope that this will be a time for discussion and consideration of ideas. There will be some kind of test of what you have learned about method, probably on **Tuesday, July 15** (in class), but that is not worked out yet ... so stay tuned!

3. *Research Paper*: In the second week, you will each be assigned an article taken from a journal; this will be e-mailed to you as a PDF. Please read the article and become familiar with the research in it. You will then write a research paper based on your article. **This paper is due on Thursday, July 31 by 12:00 PM (noon)**. Your paper will consist of two components:
  - a) **Summary**. You should write a summary of your article, indicating the goal of the research, the design of the experiments, the principal results, and how these results were interpreted theoretically. This should be two typed, double-spaced pages (i.e., not an abstract). It should be clearly written in normal prose (i.e., not "point form").
  - b) **Extension**. Using your own ideas, you should suggest one way in which the research in your article might be extended in a meaningful way. Provide sufficient methodological and theoretical detail for a good understanding of the experiment you propose. This should be a principled and substantive proposal, taking two pages. You are most welcome to consult with me or the TA about your ideas.

The final product will be a 4-page paper (not longer), with 1-inch margins and *double-spaced*. Type font must not be smaller than 12-pitch Times. You may not use any portion of the Summary pages for the Extension (or vice versa). Note that this paper is meant to be a self-contained task, so use of reference material is not required. A title page with a brief descriptive title of your own creation should be attached as the first page of your submission. You are also responsible for keeping a copy of the final version of your paper. You must hand in a hard copy; e-mail submission will not be accepted. We will aim to have my comments—including a letter grade—to you within a week of submission.

4. *Research Presentation*: Also in the second week of class, you will receive an article taken from a journal that you are to read and become familiar with. In the last two weeks of class, each of you will present the research in that article as if you were the author giving a talk at a conference. You will use PowerPoint to construct a 12-minute research presentation covering the theory, method, results and interpretation, and then you will handle questions for a further 4 minutes. Six students will present each day over the last four class meetings (July 17-29).
5. *Participation*: You will be expected to play an active role in the course—by commenting, asking questions, and the like. This will be particularly true in the final four weeks, after the exam, when we do the research presentations and papers. You will also be expected to attend all class meetings; if you must miss a meeting, you must e-mail me in advance explaining why.

## ***THE PART THAT APPEARS ON ALL HANDOUTS...***

### **Statement *re* Academic Offense**

The following statement must be included in all course outlines at the University of Waterloo. It is *important*; please read it. You should also consult the Faculty of Arts web page on plagiarism [<http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>], and you should feel free to talk to me or one of the TAs if you have any questions.

“All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to “group work” and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.”

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term. They can be reached via phone at 519 888 4567 x35082 or on the web at <http://www.studentservices.uwaterloo.ca/disabilities/>

**PSYCHOLOGY 398**  
**Spring 2008 Syllabus**

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	CHAPTERS
May 6 & 8	History	Methods	1, 3 (pp. 45-52)
May 13 & 15	History & Methods	Short-Term Memory	3 (pp. 52-64), 4
May 20 & 22	Working Memory	Implicit Memory	5, 6
May 27 & 29	Episodic Memory	Semantic Memory	7, 9
June 3 & 5	Memory & Reality	Metamemory	12, 14
June 10 & 12	Autobiographical Memory	Memory & the Law	11, 13
June 17 & 19	Amnesia	Memory Disorders	16, 17
June 24 & 26	Catch-Up and Review	<b>**EXAM**</b>	
July 1 & 3	<b>NO CLASS</b> CANADA DAY	<u>Preparing an Experiment</u>	
July 8 & 10	<u>Designing an Experiment</u>	<u>Understanding Results</u>	
July 15 & 17	<u>Interpretation and Beyond</u>	<i>Presentation Session 1</i>	
July 22 & 24	<i>Presentation Session 2</i>	<i>Presentation Session 3</i>	
July 29	<i>Presentation Session 4</i>	<b>NO CLASS</b> CLASSES OVER	