

PSYCH 398: Research in Memory
Winter 2011
Tue-Thur 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
Room 2086

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Office hrs: Tue 1:00-3:00 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]

T.A.: Ester Moher, PAS 4044, emoher@uwaterloo.ca
(office hours: Thur 12:30-1:30)

Course Description

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

Course Readings

There is no textbook for this course; we will be reading original readings, as shown on the attached syllabus. All of the readings are included as PDFs on the course CD (handed out today). You are expected to do all of the required readings prior to class every week, and to come to class prepared.

Course Evaluation

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

1. *Lectures, Methods, and Exam:* In Weeks 1-2, 4-5 and 8-9 (not counting Reading Week) of the course, I will teach an actual 6-week mini-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 readings contained on your CD. On **March 15 in class**, there will be an exam covering this material. This will include multiple choice and possibly short answer questions and one or more essays.
2. *Methods & Exam:* In Weeks 6-7 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 intend that this as a time for discussion and consideration of ideas. There will be questions on the exam from this component of the course, too.

3. *Research Paper*: In the second week, you will each be assigned an article taken from a journal; this will be on your CD as a PDF. 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 March 1 at the start of class.** 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 experiment(s), 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, with 1-inch margins, *double*-spaced, and type font not 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. You are responsible for keeping a copy of the final version of your paper. You must hand in a hard copy plus e-mail a copy; e-mail submission alone will not be accepted. We will aim to have comments—including a letter grade—to you within a week of submission.

4. *Research Presentation*: Also in the second week of class, you will be assigned an article taken from a journal and appearing on your CD. Again, you are to read and become familiar with this article. In the last two weeks of class, each of you will present the research in your 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 (**March 22-31**). Everyone is expected to attend all presentations.
5. *Participation*: You will be expected to play an active role in the course—by commenting, asking questions, taking part in “events,” and the like. This will be particularly true in the non-lecture weeks, when we do the observations, research presentations, and papers. You will also be expected to attend all class meetings; if you must miss a meeting, please 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
Winter 2011 Syllabus

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	READINGS
Jan 4 & 6	History	History	Bower
Jan 11 & 13	Methods	Methods	Lockhart; Radvansky
Jan 18 & 20	<u>Observing Memory 1: The World</u>	<u>Observing Memory 1: The World</u>	
Jan 25 & 27	Sensory Memory	Working Memory	Atkinson; Baddeley
Feb 1 & 3	Implicit Memory	Episodic Memory	Schacter; Roediger; Tulving
Feb 8 & 10	<u>Preparing an Experiment</u>	<u>Designing an Experiment</u>	
Feb 15 & 17	<u>Understanding Results</u>	<u>Interpretation and Beyond</u>	
Feb 22 & 24	READING WEEK – NO CLASSES		
Mar 1 & 3	Semantic Memory	Autobiographical Memory	; Rubin
Mar 8 & 10	Applied Memory	Amnesia	
Mar 15 & 17	EXAM	<u>Observing Memory 2: The Movies</u>	
Mar 22 & 24	<i>Presentation Session 1</i>	<i>Presentation Session 2</i>	
Mar 29 & 31	<i>Presentation Session 3</i>	<i>Presentation Session 4</i>	