

Psychology P461

“Human Memory”

Course Description:

This introductory course will provide an overview of the current field of human memory. Human memory is concerned with how people encode, store, retrieve and use information, knowledge and prior experiences. In this survey course, we will examine the underlying neurocognitive processes, mechanisms and structures that are involved in sensory memory, short-term memory/working memory and long-term memory. Specific areas to be covered in this course include topics such as: perception and pattern recognition, coding and capacity limitations of immediate memory, working memory dynamics and cognitive control processes, levels of processing, retention and forgetting, interference and decay, implicit and explicit memory, amnesia, visual imagery and verbal coding, memory schemas and memory illusions, prospective memory, mnemonics and memory aids. We will also briefly consider several current global models of memory.

Required Textbooks:

- P.J. Hilts, Memory’s Ghost, Simon & Schuster, 1996 (paperback)
A. Baddeley, M.W. Eysenck & M.C. Anderson, Memory 2nd edition, Psychology Press, 2015 (paperback)
L. C. Katz & M. Rubin, Keep Your Brain Alive, Workman Publishing Company, 1999 (paperback)

Examinations and Grading Policy:

Your grade in P461 will be based on two examinations. Each exam will count for 40% of your final grade. Homework assignments will count for the remaining 20% of your grade. All exams will be based on both lecture material presented in class and other material covered in the textbook and required reading assignments. **You are responsible for everything in this course.** Most of the lectures are based on information that is in the textbook. There will also be several homework assignments involving the collection and interpretation of experimental data that you have to obtain from a willing participant. **You are personally responsible for the content of the lectures, the material in the textbook, and all of the homework assignments.** The two exams will consist of: (1) true/false, (2) short-answer questions, (3) essay-type questions and (4) a “graph” question in order to provide you with every opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials and major concepts covered in this course. Grades will be based on absolute scores so that, in principle, everyone could get an “A” in this course. **This course is not graded on a curve.**

Each of the exams will consist of true/false and short-answer questions, a “graph question” and a take-home “essay question” which is due a week before each of the exams. This format is used in order to provide you with every opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials and major concepts covered in this course. The final research project proposal must be an original piece of research designed by you that is based on the class lectures and reading assignments covered in the course. Your project proposal must be “preapproved” by me before you begin writing it up for submission at the end of the semester. You cannot use any previous research you have carried out for another course to satisfy this requirement. Your proposed research project must be based on something you came up with based on material in this course.

Exams:

- Exam I** – (40% of Final Grade)
Final Exam – (40% of Final Grade)

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P461 Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings

<u>WEEK:</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPIC:</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READINGS:</u>
1.	Introduction: What is Memory?	<u>Memory’s Ghost</u> - (Book about “HM”) <u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 1, 17 & Readings <u>Keep Your Brain Alive</u> – Read Whole Book
2.	Sensory Memory	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 2 & Readings
3.	Short-term Memory	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 3 & Readings
4.	Working Memory	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 4 & Readings
5.	Learning & Episodic Memory	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 5,6 & Readings
6.	Exam I and Review of Exam I	Exam I on Tuesday: Review Exam on Thursday
7.	Semantic Memory	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 7 & Readings
8.	Imagery & Visual-Spatial Coding	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 7, 4 & Readings Nova Video —“Stranger in the Mirror”
9.	Retrieval and Remembering	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 8 & Readings
10.	Recognition Memory	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 8 & Readings
11.	Forgetting and Memory Loss	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 9, 10 & Readings
12.	Autobiographical Memory	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 11 & Readings
13.	Eyewitness Testimony; “Fake News” Implanted/False Memories	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) - Chapt 12 & Readings Nova Video – Alan Alda & Dan Schacter
14.	Prospective/Adaptive Memory; Memory and Aging; Amnesia	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) – Chapt 13 & Readings <u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) – Chapt 15 & Readings
15.	Amnesia; Mnemonics & Memory Aids Memory Models; Course Wrap-Up	<u>Memory</u> (BEA Text) – Chapt 16,17 & Readings
16.	<u>FINAL EXAMINATION</u>	