

Psychology 3450: Human Cognition
September 2012
Slot 3: M W F 10:00 - 10:50
SN 4063

Instructor: Dr. C. Penney, SN 3073,
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Office Hours: Friday, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Course Website: <http://dogsbody.psych.mun.ca/3450/>
Course outlines and any other handouts will be posted to the website.

Teaching Assistant: Jessica Tilley, SN 3075, jessica.tilley@mun.ca

Required Text and other Materials:

Reisberg, D. (2002). Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind (3rd or 4th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Readings: You will be required to read 12 journal articles. These will be available online.

Evaluation:

For a verbal description of what letter grades mean, students are advised to read Section 8 of the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar, especially the section on *Good Writing*. You are encouraged to consult the Writing Centre for assistance with technical aspects of writing.

Midterm Exam (Wednesday, Oct. 17)	30%
Final Exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	50%
Summaries of two readings	20%

Midterm and final examinations will be approximately 50% multiple choice and 50% essay. ***There is no make-up exam if you miss the midterm.*** If you miss the exam for good reason (documented by letter from your doctor, minister etc.) your grade will be pro-rated on the basis of the final exam. If you miss an exam without a good documented excuse, you will get a grade of zero. **If you suddenly become ill the day of the exam, please contact me by phone or e-mail immediately.**

You must apply for a deferred final examination no later than five days after the scheduled exam. Fill out the form which you can obtain from Brenda in the Psychology Office (SN 2065) and give it to her. You must have a legitimate excuse, suitably documented.

Summaries of the Readings

For two of the required readings you are required to write a summary of the study. The summary will be 3 to 5 pages (typed, double-spaced) in which you explain the main points of the experiment.

Begin with a brief description of the background literature. You need to describe one or two previously published experiments and the relevant theories. Define important concepts and describe the main findings. You need only enough information to justify the hypotheses. State what hypotheses are being tested, what predictions are being made, or what questions are being asked in the study. Describe the important aspects of the method. What happened to the participants? What were they being asked to do? What was the design of the experiment; that is, what are the various conditions? Describe the results of the experiment. Which condition produced the highest recall or the most errors or the fastest reaction times? Then, show how the experimental findings relate to the hypothesis or theories being tested.

One purpose of the written assignments is to teach you to read independently and critically, to focus on the important details of an experiment, and to understand the logic underlying science. How does the method relate to the hypotheses being tested? How do the results support or contradict the hypotheses.

Another purpose of the assignments is to improve your writing skills, and to help you learn how to write academic essays. The complete reference for all books, journal articles or websites cited must be included in the reference list at the end. References should be in APA format. (The APA Manual is available online.)

Plagiarism:

All written work must be in your own words. All quotations must be indicated in the text and the complete reference, including the page number, must be supplied. Minimize the use of direct quotations. Use direct quotations in psychological reports only when the exact wording of the statement is necessary to make a point.

Copying, plagiarism, or cheating of any sort is not acceptable and will earn a zero for the assignment or test concerned. Students are advised to read Section 11: Academic Misconduct in the General Regulations section of the University calendar.

Deadlines:

Late assignments will not be accepted without a very good reason, duly authenticated. Having a heavy burden of tests or assignments is not considered good reason; nor is having a vacation. A big part of the university experience is learning how to organize and plan your time, and to meet deadlines.

Computer failure is also not an acceptable excuse. Always print a draft of your assignment; then if you have a computer disaster, you can submit the draft as proof you have done your work. Then submit a clean copy of the assignment within 24 hrs.

Classroom Behaviour:

I expect students to arrive at class on time (and I will try to do the same) and not to leave during the lecture. You will need your full attention on the lecture if you are to learn anything. That means no chatting, text messaging, reading newspapers, doing crossword puzzles, etc. Attendance at the lectures is not required; if you want to socialize, please do it outside the classroom. I expect all students to show respect by not talking when another student asks a question and when I answer it.

I do welcome questions and comments from students during the lecture and will answer them as best I can. You may also submit questions by e-mail. Where the answer is of interest to all students, I will edit the question to remove information that would identify the student and will circulate my reply to all students.

I usually end the lecture a few minutes early so that students who have individual questions can ask them at the end of class.

LECTURES MAY NOT BE AUDIO-OR VIDEO-RECORDED

If you have some type of disability that prevents you from taking notes, please discuss this with me. I will need a formal request from the Blundon Centre and I may impose certain conditions before allowing recording.