

Psychology 398, Spring 2005
Research in Memory and Attention

Time: T, Th: 10:30 – 12:20

Place: PAS 4288

Instructor: Daniel Smilek, Ph.D.

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Course Website: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~dsmilek/psych398/>

Office hrs: Th: 12:20-2:00, and by appointment.

Required Text:

Baddeley, A. (2002). *Human memory: Theory and Practice, Revised addition*. East Sussex, UK: Psychology Press Ltd.

Teaching Assistant:

<u>Name</u>	<u>e-mail</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
Marty Lochner	mlochner@uwaterloo.ca	PAS 4044	T,Th: 12:30-1:30

Course Description:

The main purpose of this course is to introduce you to research and theory pertaining to memory and attention. In addition, this course should provide you with an opportunity to gain experience implementing laboratory experiments, and assist you in developing your technical writing and oral presentation skills. The course consists of four major components.

Lectures: In the first part of the course, I will be giving lectures on specific topics pertaining to memory and attention. The lectures will be largely based on the Baddeley (2002) text. Although there will be considerable overlap between the text and lectures, there will also be some material that will only be presented in lectures. It is strongly recommended that you attend lectures and that you complete the assigned readings before attending lectures.

Labs: There will be two (2) labs in this course in which you will participate in real, publication-quality experiments. The idea is to learn about research by actually doing research. Participation in these labs is mandatory. Failing to participate in a lab will result in the loss of 3% of the participation grade.

Papers: You will be required to write three papers in this course. The first and second papers will be the Method and Results sections respectively, based on the first lab. Each of these papers will be worth 5% of the final grade. The third and final paper will be a complete research paper based on the second lab and will include the following components: Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Figure Captions, and Figures. This final paper will be worth 20%. All papers must be typed and must conform to APA style.

Presentation: In the latter part of the course, each student will be required to lead a class discussion centered on an assigned research article. Presentations will be done in groups and each presenter will be given approximately 35 minutes to present an article, any related material and to lead a class discussion. The presentation will be worth 15% of the final grade. Participation in the class discussions is also important and will contribute to the overall participation mark.

Evaluation:

You will be evaluated on the basis of participation in labs and class discussions, papers based on Lab 1, a midterm test, a presentation and a final test. The midterm test will cover all material covered prior to the midterm. The final test will cover material discussed in class after the midterm test. The overall grade will be based on the following weightings of the components:

Participation = 15%

Papers = 30%

Midterm Test = 25%

Presentation = 15%

Final Test = 15%

A note on computers:

All undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts may obtain a free computer account on Waterloo Polaris. The account gives students free access to applications such as word processing, statistical and graphics packages, spreadsheets, and electronic mail, as well as the Internet. Students are charged for printing and can put money for printing on to their Arts Computing Resources Account at PAS 1080 using their WATCARD. Instructions for obtaining a Polaris account are available from the Arts Computing Office.

Policy Regarding Illness:

Students are entitled to a rescheduling of tests or an extension of deadlines for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons. Students are also entitled to rescheduling tests based on religious grounds. However, it is the student's responsibility to (1) inform the instructor prior to the due date, (2) arrange a timely makeup, and (3) provide acceptable documentation to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Academic Counseling Office as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered. For example, in the case of illness, the student must provide an *official illness certificate* on appropriate letterhead from their physician, which states that, due to medical reasons, it was impossible for the student to write the exam at the scheduled time. A note on a prescription pad is not an acceptable medical certificate.

Note for 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.

Note on avoidance of academic offences:

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:10, and on the web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Please also note the following link to the Arts Faculty Web page, "How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors" (<http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>)

Tentative* Lecture Schedule:

(note: The Reading List will be updated on the web page)

May 3 – Syllabus, Organization, Introduction

May 5 – Class cancelled (Due to conference)

May 10 – Sensory Memory (Baddeley, Chpt. 2)

May 12 – Visual Attention (see Reading List)

May 17 – Lab 1: Visual Exploration and Memory (see Reading List)

May 19 – Lab 1: Subject Running

May 24 – Lab 1: Discussion of Results

May 27 – Short-Term/Working Memory (Baddeley, Chpt. 3, 4, 5) [**Due: Lab 1 Methods**]

May 31 – Retrieval (Baddeley, Chpt. 11)

June 2 – Learning (Baddeley, Chpt. 7 & 8) [**Due: Lab 1 Results**]

June 7 – Implicit Memory and Learning (Baddeley, Chpt. 19 & 20)

June 9 – Mnemonics and Unusual Memory (Baddeley, Chpt 8)

June 14 – **Midterm Test**

June 16 – Attention and Memory (Example presentation: Marty)

June 21 – Lab 2: TBA

June 23 – Lab 2: Running Subjects

June 28 – Lab 2: Discussion of Results

June 30 – Group 1: Flashbulb Memory [**Due: Lab 1 Final Paper**]

July 5 – Group 2: Autobiographical Memory

July 7 – Group 3: Eyewitness Testimony

July 12 – Group 4: Early Childhood Memories

July 14 – Group 5: Trauma, Real and Imagined

July 19 – Group 6: Memory and Aging

July 21 – Group 7: Collaborative Memory

July 26 – Group 8: Memory in Everyday Tasks

July 28 – **Final Test**

*Note that this is a tentative lecture schedule and is subject to change. The amount of class time that is spent on each of the topics listed above depends in part on class interest. If students are interested in a particular topic then it may be expanded at the expense of other topics. Therefore, I reserve the right to make changes as necessary. However, I will point out all changes in class and, in particular, what information you will be expected to know for the Midterm Test.