

**PSYD50: Current Topics in Memory and Cognition**  
**Human Memory**  
Winter 2006

- Instructor:** George Cree, Assistant Professor, Psychology  
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*Office hours:* Tue. 11:00-12:00, Fri. 2:00-3:00, or by appointment.
- Class Times:** Tuesday: 9-11 MW-264
- Course Website:** UTSC Intranet (<http://intranet.utsc.utoronto.ca>)  
Look here for lecture notes, assignments, grades, and the discussion board.
- Course Blog:** <http://spaces.msn.com/members/psyd50>  
Look here for important announcements and links to related information.
- Textbook:** Neath, I., & Suprenant, A. M. (2003). Human Memory. Second Edition.  
Thomson Wadsworth Publishers.
- Pre-requisites:** PSYB57H plus one C-level half-credit in PSY  
Exclusion: PSY470H, PSY471H

**Course Objectives:**

1. To develop a solid understanding of the terminology, research methods, classic studies, and current issues in the study of human memory.
2. To develop the skills required to relate research findings, taken from experiments, to the theories that motivated those experiments, and how theories evolve given new data.
3. To develop your abilities to discuss research in an informal manner and context.
4. To develop the skills required to generate marketable products from the results of research, and to provide scientific justification for the efficacy of those products.

**Schedule of Topics, Assignments, and Exams:****Week 1 (Jan 10<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 1: Introduction and Historical Overview****Chapter 15: Mnemonics**

CogLab: LinkWord

**Week 2 (Jan 17<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 2: Sensory Memory**

CogLabs: Partial Report, Suffix Effect

Experiment: The Stimulus Suffix Effect

**Chapter 3: The Modal Model**

CogLabs: Absolute Identification, Brown-Peterson, Sternberg Memory Scanning, Serial Position

Experiment: Recency Effects in Free Recall

**Week 3 (Jan 24<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 4: Working Memory**

CogLabs: Memory Span, Operation Span

Experiment: The Syllable-Based Word-Length Effect

**Week 4 (Jan 31<sup>st</sup>):****Chapter 5: Perspectives on Processing**

CogLab: Encoding Specificity

Experiment: Levels of Processing

**Week 5 (Feb 7<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 6: Forgetting**

CogLab: Von Restorff Effect

Experiment: Buildup and Release from PI

**Week 6 (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 7: Implicit Memory**

CogLab: Implicit Learning

Experiment: Priming Word-Fragment Completion

--- Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>: Reading Week ---**Week 7 (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 8: Memory, Brain, and Amnesia**

CogLab: Brain Asymmetry

Experiment: Laterality of Language

**Week 8 (Mar 7<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 10: Knowledge**

CogLab: Lexical Decision

Experiment: Typicality Effects and Inferences

**Week 9 (Mar 14<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 12: Reconstructive Processes in Memory**

CogLabs: False Memory, Forgot it all Along

Experiment: Memory for Words not Presented

**Week 10 (Mar 21<sup>st</sup>):****Chapter 13: Memory for When**

CogLab: Position Error Gradients

Experiment: Memory for Position

**Week 11 (Mar 28<sup>th</sup>):****Chapter 14: Memory Development****Week 12 (Apr 4<sup>th</sup>):****Group Presentation Day**--- April 17<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Final Exam Period ---

## Course Evaluation

### Midterm Assignment: 20%

The goal of this assignment will be to test your ability to link data with theory. I will provide you with several data sets, taken from experiments we will discuss in class, and ask you to draw conclusions from the data given what you know about current theories of human memory.

I will post the assignment on the intranet on, or before, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. The assignment will be due at 11:59 pm, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Final Exam 30%

The final exam will be similar to the Midterm assignment, but will take place during the final exam period. The exam will be scheduled for 2 hours.

### Class Participation 15%

It is very important that you develop the ability to discuss, in conversational style, both data and theory. There are several ways to achieve these marks in this course. The most obvious type of contribution, and the one I will be looking for the most, is contribution to class discussions. One way to supplement this, if you feel that you have not been able to participate as much as you would have liked, is to provide interesting observations on the intranet discussion board (e.g., if someone raises an issue to which no one in the class knows the answer, you can take the initiative to research the topic and provide the results of your research, in a useful and coherent manner, on the discussion board).

Near the end of the course, I will ask you to rate your own contributions, relative to the rest of the class. I will take these self-ratings into account in determining your final class participation grade.

### Group Project:

**Written Report 20%**

**Presentation 10%**

**Group Participation 5%**

In groups of 4, you will design a marketable "memory product." Your job is to provide the scientific justification for the product. Picture yourselves as the "scientific advisors" for a company. How does your product work? *What research is there to support your claims?* Who will the product help? Why would someone want to buy it? The product must be based on what we currently know about human memory (i.e., the premise of the product can not be based on speculation about how memory might work).

Your group will hand in a single report. Your group will also work together to give the presentation.

Just after reading week, and at the end of the assignment, you will be asked to assess the contributions of all members of your group. These assessments will form your group participation marks.

**Policies on missed and late exams and assignments**

The only reasons considered valid for missing an exam are (1) you are not in an appropriate physical condition to write an exam, as verified by a medical professional, or (2) you are not in the appropriate mental condition to write an exam, as verified by a medical or counseling professional, or (3) it is a University of Toronto recognized religious holiday for a religion you are part of as verified by documentation from an appropriate religious leader.

If you miss the final exam I cannot provide a make-up. Instead you will have to petition to be allowed to write a deferred final exam during the next exam period (up to four months away).

I will deduct 10% per day for assignments that are submitted after the deadline, up to a maximum of 50% off. Please be aware that I can not, by U of T policy, accept assignments after the last day of classes.

**Policies on academic integrity**

Please review the UTSC Code on Academic Behaviour:

[http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/courses/calendar/University\\_of\\_Toronto\\_Policies.html#Code\\_of\\_Behaviour\\_on\\_Academic\\_Matters](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/courses/calendar/University_of_Toronto_Policies.html#Code_of_Behaviour_on_Academic_Matters)

**AccessAbility**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

*The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*