

Psychology 433: Learning and Memory – Fall, 2004
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:50
207 Chapman

Instructor

Ben Levy

Room: 356 Straub Hall

Office Phone: 346-1060

Email: blevy@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-11:30 and Friday, 1:30-3

Textbook

Essentials of Human Memory. Alan Baddeley. (1999). Psychology Press.

General Course Description

My goal in this course is to help you build an appreciation for the central role that memory plays in our lives. You could not have a conversation, play basketball, or recognize your mother if it were not for the seamless, unobtrusive influence of memory. Indeed, the function of memory is never so conspicuous and astonishing as when it fails us.

Because memory is such a basic and pervasive process, it has been a central theme of psychology since its inception as a science over 100 years ago. In this course we will survey the most influential theories and findings in this important and extensive area of research. Basic research and theory will be discussed as well as a variety of interesting special issues, like amnesia, eyewitness memory, and the unconscious influences of memory.

Course Format

The material for this class will be presented through assigned readings, class lectures, films, discussions, and in-class demonstrations. Lectures will be designed to supplement the text, not repeat it. As such, there will be material in lecture that is not covered in the book and material from the book not covered in lecture. You will be responsible for all the materials presented in lectures, films, and in the text. Therefore, I am more than willing to speak with you during office hours about difficult material from the text that I have not covered in class. You are expected to have done the reading before class in order to get the most out of the lectures.

Course Evaluation

Grades will be based on two midterms (20% each), a cumulative final exam (25%), a paper (25%), and class participation (10%).

Exams

Tests will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. Make-up exams will only be considered if the student has a note from a doctor. Make-up exams will cover the same material as the original tests, but they will consist of one or more essay questions.

Paper

A 3-5 page paper will be due on the final day of class (12/2). These will be short review papers based on empirical research about some topic in memory that you will select. This assignment will include several sub-assignments (e.g., a rough draft) which will count toward the total paper grade. We will discuss this assignment in more detail during the fourth week of class (10/21).

Class participation

Throughout the course there will be in-class assignments and demonstrations where I will have you turn in your work. I may also give pop quizzes on the assigned reading material. These quizzes and in-class assignments will make up half of your participation grade. There will be no opportunity to make up these assignments, so if you miss class frequently your participation grade will suffer. The other half of this grade will be based on my evaluation of your contribution to classroom discussions.

Extra credit

You may receive extra credit for this class by participating in the Psychology Department's Human Subjects Pool. For every hour (up to four) that you participate, you will receive a half of a percentage point adjustment to your final grade (i.e., you can raise your final grade 2% if you participate in 4 hours of experiments).

Tentative Course Outline

Date	Reading Assignment	Lecture Topic
Tu 9/28	Intro, Overview of memory	
Th 9/30	Sensory memory	Ch. 1
Tu 10/5	Short-term memory	Ch. 2
Th 10/7	Working memory	Ch. 3
Tu 10/12	Neural basis of working memory	
Th 10/14	Encoding	Ch. 4
Tu 10/19	Skilled Memory	Ch. 5 (pp. 99-107)
Th 10/21	Discussion of the paper assignment	
Tu 10/26	Test	
Th 10/28	Semantic and episodic memory	Ch. 8
Tu 11/2	Retrieval	Ch. 9 (pp. 169–182)
Th 11/4	Forgetting – Cue change	Ch. 6 (pp. 109-118), Ch. 9 (pp. 182-186)
Tu 11/9	Forgetting – Interference	Ch. 6 (pp. 119-129)
Th 11/11	Memory illusions and errors	Ch. 5 (pp. 95-99), Ch. 10 (pp. 199-209)
Tu 11/16	Repression	Ch. 7
Th 11/18	Test	
Tu 11/23	Amnesia	Ch. 11
Th 11/25	<i>Thanksgiving – No class</i>	
Tu 11/30	Memory in childhood	Ch. 12
Th 12/2	Aging and memory	Ch. 13
Tu 12/7	Final Exam (8 am)	