Psychology 122A: Introduction to Human Learning and Memory

Instructor: Art Shimamura, aps@berkeley.edu

Textbook: Memory, Baddeley, Eysenck, & Anderson (2009)
Course Website: bspace.berkeley.edu

Week of Topics Readings

Topic 1: Introduction: Human Learning and Memory Chapter 1
Topic 2: History of Memory Research Chapter 16
Topic 3: Research Methods Chapter 2
Topic 4: Sensory Memory Chapter 11
Topic 5: Working Memory Chapter 3
Topic 6: Verbal Memory Chapter 4

------ Exam 1 covers lectures Chps 1-3, 11, 16 ------

Topic 7: Spatial Memory Chapter 5
Topic 8: Semantic Memory Chapter 6

========== SPRING BREAK ==========

Topic 9: Implicit Habits and Skills Chapters 9 & 10

------ Exam 2 covers lectures Chps 4-6, 9-10 ------

Topic 10: Autobiographical Memory Chapter 7 & 14
Topic 11: Retrieving Memories Chapter 8 & 15
Topic 12: Memory and Aging Chapter 12 & 13

****Paper Due via bSpace Assignment****

Grading Scheme: Grades will be based on two midterm exams (each exam worth 20% of your grade), a paper (worth 15%), discussion section points (worth 5%), and a final examination (worth 40% and covering the entire course material).

Lecture Material: PDFs files of lecture slides will be available one week in advance. These slides provide an outline for lecture information. It is best to bring them to class and embellish them with you own notes. The lecture slides DO NOT contain all the information tested on exams, so it will be important to attend lectures and add notes to them.

Class Attendance

You will be responsible for material presented in lectures, readings and discussion sections. Much of the material presented in lectures will not be in the book. Therefore, class attendance is very important. In Discussion Sections, material from lectures and textbook will be clarified and discussed. Important information about exams and the paper assignment will be presented in sections. You are responsible for information presented in Discussion Sections.

Syllabus Confirmation Assignment (Due [****])

By [****], submit via the bspace Assignment link a note that says the following:

Dear (put your GSI’s name here): I have downloaded and read the course syllabus. (your name)

Failure to submit this assignment will result in a 3 point penalty.
Midterm Exams (Each Exam is worth 20% of Grade)

Midterm exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Prior to each exam, you can download a study guide which will direct you to important concepts and topics discussed in class and in the readings. Each exam = 20% of grade (100 points each). You must bring to each exam a pencil and Red Parscore Form (F-288, half-page form).

Paper Assignment (75 possible points =15% of Grade)

For this assignment, you imagine that you are a researcher of human memory and are writing an empirical research report of your “findings.” You must first find an empirical research paper published in 2013 or 2014 that includes human subjects (with methods and results). This paper sets the topic for your paper, though your made-up experiment does not have to conform to the methods of this chosen paper. Your paper will be formatted using the APA Publication Manual guidelines (with some exceptions, see below). From your topic of human memory, you will design an experiment, and write in your own words: 1) title page with abstract, 2) introduction (brief review of past literature, your hypothesis), 3) methods (description of subjects, design, procedure), 4) results (made-up data with figure embedded in results), 5) discussion (interpretation of results), and 6) reference page. The introduction, method, results, and discussion are not to exceed 3 single-spaced pages (12 pt font, 1-inch margins). Note: You will be making up fictitious data rather than actually running the experiment. More details about the paper will be presented in Discussion Section. Your entire paper should be in your own words. Any possibility of plagiarism will result in a zero score on your paper and a citation submitted to the Office of Student Conduct. Late papers will be penalized.

Discussion Section Points (25 points or 5% of grade, includes attendance to weekly sections)

Attendance to weekly discussion sections is required. Critical information concerning tests and paper assignment will be presented during sections. The GSIs will be responsible for grading your attendance and participation in sections (0-25 points possible).

Final Exam (40% of grade)

The final exam covers the entire course material and will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions (30 questions from material tested in first midterm, 30 from material tested in second midterm, and 40 questions from material presented after the second midterm exam). Use the study guides for the two midterm exams to help you study for the final. You will also be able to download a third study guide for material covered after the second midterm. Final exam = 40% of grade (200 points possible). You must bring a pencil and Parscore FORM to the Final.

Final Letter Grade

Your letter grade will be based on an overall point score made up of four scores: Midterm Exam 1, Midterm Exam 2, Paper, Discussion Section credit, and Final Exam. For each of these scores, you will receive points based on your performance and the total possible maximum score for the course is 500 points. Your Overall Score (total possible=500) is calculated as (Exam 1 Score%) + (Exam 2 Score%) + (Paper Points) + (Discussion Section Points) + (2 * Final Exam Score%).

Letter grades follow percentage scoring (A=90%) and are based on your overall point score as follows*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>500 - 485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>484 - 450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>449 - 435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>434 - 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>399 - 385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>384 – 345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>344 - 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No minus scores are given. Instead, they are moved up to the solid grade (e.g., A- is moved to an A grade). These cutoff points are firm. You will have opportunities to increase your point total with extra credit assignments presented during lecture.