

Psychology 495: The Psychology of Human Memory Spring 2018

Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:35 – 10:50 AM

Class Location: Burk Hall 226

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Barber

E-mail: barber@sfsu.edu

Office: EP 307

Office Hours: Thursdays 12 PM – 2 PM or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

There are two main objectives for this course. The first is to outline and examine fundamental theories and research in the study of human memory. In doing so, we will also discuss the methods by which human memory is explored in contemporary experimental psychology.

The second objective is to examine how these basic concepts can be applied to real life. We will discuss topics such as memory distortions, eyewitness memory, developmental changes in memory that occur from infancy to old age, memory disorders such as amnesia and Alzheimer's disease, and the repressed/recovered memory controversy.

The student learning outcomes of this course are to: (a) understand current theories of how memory is organized; (b) be able to define different types of memory; (c) be able to describe the methods and results of classic memory experiments; (d) be able to describe how memory varies across the lifespan and in different patient population groups, and (e) discuss the real-world application of concepts discussed in the course.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required text: Schwartz, B. L. (2014). *Memory: Foundations and Applications*, 2nd Edition. Sage Publishers: Thousand Oaks, CA.

**There is a copy of this text on reserve at the library.*

**IMPORTANT: There is a newer 3rd edition of the textbook that has been released but in this course we will still be using the older 2nd edition.*

Book companion website: The student companion website for your textbook includes a variety of resources that may aid in your studying, including flashcards with key terms, quizzes with both multiple choice and essay questions, and links to videos and relevant web resources.

<http://studysites.sagepub.com/schwartz2e/study/chapter.htm>

ONLINE INFORMATION:

This course is registered on iLearn. Important class documents and announcements will be posted there. You can log on to iLearn at <https://ilearn.sfsu.edu>. To log on to iLearn, you will need your SFSU ID or email address and password. For help with iLearn, please see www.sfsu.edu/online/troubletips.htm. Please check iLearn and your **email** regularly as I may post important announcements, information about assignments, and syllabus modifications throughout the semester.

COURSE COMPONENTS:

(1) Readings: You will be assigned to read **1-2 chapters** each week from the textbook. During week 2 there is also a supplementary reading available online that must be completed (see the course schedule). It is expected that readings will be completed prior to the class in which they are discussed. Class exams will include material from the textbook which may or may not be discussed in class lectures/discussions.

(2) Lectures: Class lectures will be presented with PowerPoint. Slides will be made available on the iLearn website. Slides will generally be posted online before class begins. Simply reading the slides will not be an adequate substitution for attending class. In the event that you do miss a lecture, you should contact another student for that day's notes. Please be aware that material covered in lecture may not be in the textbook, but may still appear on course exams and quizzes.

(3) Application Assignments: There will be **8 application assignments** in this course. Each is worth 12 points, and taken together they will make up about 20% of your final grade. As noted above, one of the main goals in this course is for you to learn how basic concepts in memory research play out in everyday life. These assignments are designed with this goal in mind. The instructions for each assignment will be available on iLearn. Application assignments must be completed individually (please see the section below on academic integrity). Each assignment should take about 1-2 hours to complete.

Lateness policy: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date. Each is worth 12 points. You will have two “grace days” (total) of lateness to use for your assignments during the semester. After these grace days are used, turning in your materials late for any reason will result in the loss of 4 points after each 24 hour period that the assignment is late (excluding weekends). Assignments will NOT be accepted after a week has passed except for extreme documented reasons.

(4) Mid-semester Exams: There will be **3 mid-semester exams** in this course. Each exam will each cover approximately one-third of the material presented in the course. Mid-semester exams will be multiple-choice in format, and will be based on the readings, lectures, and class activities. Each exam is worth 100 points. **You will be able to drop the lowest of these three grades.** Your best two exam grades will together make up about 45% of your final grade (22.5% per exam).

If at first you don't succeed... As you will learn in this course, feedback is very important for enhancing memory. To take advantage of this learning principle, your multiple choice exams will use an **immediate feedback assessment technique**. For each exam you will be provided with a special “scratch card” scantron sheet. For each multiple choice question, you will scratch off the rectangle on the scantron that corresponds to your answer choice. If you selected the correct answer, then you will find a star hidden underneath that rectangle. In this case you will receive full credit for knowing the correct answer! However, if you selected an incorrect answer, then the rectangle that you scratched off will be empty (no star). In this case, you will be able to reread the question and the remaining answer choices and try again! If your second choice is correct (you find a star under the second box you scratch off), you will earn partial credit for that question. If you again selected an incorrect answer, then you will get one final try. Of the two remaining options, you will be able to scratch off your third guess. If your third choice is correct, you will also earn partial credit (although less than if you had gotten the answer correct on your second attempt).

Lateness policy: There will be **no** late exams or make-up exams for the 3 midterms. Instead, I will drop the lowest of your three exam scores taken during the semester.

(5) Final Exam: There will also be a final comprehensive/ cumulative exam. It will also be worth 150 points and is worth about 34% of your final grade. **This exam is not optional. It is scheduled for TUESDAY MAY 22nd from 8:00 – 10:30 AM.** The date of this final exam is scheduled by the University, and exceptions to take the exam at a different time will only be given in extreme circumstances. So, please be sure to make reservations to go home or on vacation for after the date and time of the final.

Lateness policy: A make-up exam for the final exam will only be given in extreme circumstances (e.g., documented illness).

(6) Extra Credit – SONA Participation: You may earn extra credit by participating in research studies available on the SONA website. Your participation in these studies is entirely voluntary. Any study listed on SONA is acceptable for this extra credit opportunity. Each “credit” on SONA is equivalent to 3 extra points in the class. Note that the credit value for each research study on SONA varies. The maximum amount of extra credit you can earn for this course is 12 points, which is equivalent to 4 SONA credits. Participation must be completed before the final exam period begins (i.e., the last day to take advantage of this is Wednesday, May 16th). If you are unable (or choose not) to participate in SONA, please consult me for alternate assignments before May 1st.

COURSE POLICIES:

(1) Disability Access: Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/415-338-2472, video phone/415-335-7210) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu). For more information, please see <http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc>

(2) Statement on Religious Holidays: The faculty of San Francisco State University shall accommodate students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

(3) Student Disclosures of Sexual Violence. San Francisco State University fosters a campus free of sexual violence, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal event as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Title IX Coordinator by completing the report form available at <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>, emailing vpsaem@sfsu.edu or calling 338-2032.

To disclose any such violence confidentially, please contact:

- The Safe Place (415-338-2208; http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/)
- Counseling and Psychological Services Center (415-338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu>).
- For more information on your rights and available resources please see <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>

(4) Academic Integrity: The University provides severe penalties for cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. Any form of academic dishonesty will be treated as a serious matter and will be reported to the appropriate college judiciary committee. Academic dishonesty consists of any act that is designed to obtain fraudulently, either for oneself or for someone else, academic credit, grades, or other recognition that is not properly earned, including but not limited to, cheating or plagiarizing. It is your responsibility to be fully aware of the University policies on academic conduct. So if you are unfamiliar with the University policies in this area, please see me, or consult an appropriate advisor. ****Students found cheating during an examination will be referred to Judicial Affairs and will also be given a zero for the exam.**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating or fraud; it occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. **Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade.** Substantiate plagiarism will also be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action.

(5) Classroom Etiquette: Please treat each class member with the respect you would like to receive. Cell phones and other communication devices shall be turned off or silenced in class. The use of these devices (including text messaging) will not be tolerated during the class session. Behaviors that do not involve paying active attention to the class are not acceptable. This includes private conversations, reading the newspaper, listening to music, using computer for purposes other than taking notes, or studying/reading for another course. If you bring food or beverage into the lecture hall please make sure you take all empty containers with you and clean any spills before your departure.

(6) Attendance. Attendance and participation are expected. Participation includes being involved during class discussions and activities and contributing your thoughts, questions, and ideas, showing respectful consideration for others, and coming to class prepared for that day's activities.

(7) E-mail: Check your e-mail regularly – I will use email to contact you about assignments or syllabus changes, etc. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail as well (barber@sfsu.edu). Within your email be sure to include a subject and your full name. I am happy to answer questions you may have, but please do not e-mail me at the last minute, expecting a quick reply. I will respond to e-mails promptly; however, I cannot guarantee that I will reply to an e-mail sent after **5 PM** until the next morning. If your questions are answered by class handouts or are more involved, I will refer you to your handouts or recommend that you make an appointment to see me. Therefore, **do not wait** until the night before something is due to e-mail critical questions.

(8) Grading and Appeals Policy:

- Points will be earned through a combination of application assignments and exams.
- I would be delighted to meet with you during Office Hours to discuss all assignments, exams, etc. However, discussion of your grades will **only** take place during Office Hours. Class time is **not** an opportunity to talk about grades. Please email me, and I will set up a time to talk with you about grades then.
- I would be happy to correct an error in my grading. If you believe I have committed a grading error, please describe it **in writing**.

- **Special Circumstances:** If you experience a major unexpected event that you anticipate will negatively impact your class performance, detail the situation **in writing** as soon as possible. If, for example, you miss a class and turn in your assignment late due to a medical emergency or an accident, explain the situation in writing and turn in appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) in a timely manner. Failure to submit explanations in writing as soon as possible will have a negative effect when I later consider the explanation at the end of the semester.
- Grades will be promptly submitted to the Registrar's office at the end of the semester. If you have any questions or concerns about your grades, do not wait until the end of the term to discuss them with me.

How much are things worth? Grading will be determined by the number of points accrued. There are 446 possible points:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Possible points</u>	<u>Percent of final grade</u>
Application assignments	96 (8 assignments x 12 pts)	21%
Exams	200 (2 best of 3 exams x 100 pts)	45%
Final Exam	150	34 %
Extra Credit opportunity	12 (same as 1 application assignment, equivalent of about 3%)	

Grading Scale: Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

100-93% = A	86-83% = B	76-73% = C	66-63% = D
92-90% = A-	82-80% = B-	73-70% = C-	62-60% = D-
89-87% = B+	79-77% = C+	69-67% = D+	59% or less = F

(9) Course Calendar: The course calendar appears on the following pages. Keep in mind that it is **not a contract** and is subject to revision (e.g., due dates, lecture topics) at any time. All revisions will be described in class, and an updated syllabus will be posted on iLearn. All adjustments will be resolved in the spirit of academic integrity and fairness to all students.

Course Calendar (current as of 1/22/2018)

Date	Topic	Assignments
Tues 1/23	Introductions & course overview	Buy textbook Review syllabus
Thurs 1/25	Chapter 1: History of the study of memory & memory measures	
Tues 1/30	Chapter 3: Sensory memory & attention	
Thurs 2/1	Attention	Read the module online at http://nobaproject.com/modules/attention
Tues 2/6	Chapter 3: Short term memory	
Thurs 2/8	Chapter 3: Working memory	
Friday 2/9	<i>Note that this is the last day to drop a class without a grade of W</i>	
Tues 2/13	Chapter 4: Episodic memory (levels of processing)	Application Assignment #1 (“Short term memory”) due by beginning of class
Thurs 2/15	Chapter 4: Episodic memory (accessibility and encoding specificity)	
Tues 2/20	Chapter 4: Forgetting (part list cuing and retrieval induced forgetting)	
Thurs 2/22	Chapter 5: Semantic memory (spreading activation and categorization)	Application Assignment #2 (“Long term memory”) due by beginning of class
Tues 2/27	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5)	
Thurs 3/1	Chapter 9: Meta-memory	<i>Look at Application Assignment 4; you will need to interview someone who is 40 or older. Start thinking about who you can interview for the assignment.</i>
Tues 3/6	Chapter 9: Meta-memory continued	
Thurs 3/8	Chapter 6 (pages 181-188) & Chapter 13: Improving your memory Chapter 13: Memory experts	
Tues 3/13	Chapter 7: Autobiographical memory	Application Assignment #3 (“Memory improvement”) due by beginning of class
Thurs 3/15	Chapter 7: Flashbulb memory	
Friday 3/16	<i>Note that this is the last day to request a credit/ no credit grading option</i>	
Tues 3/20	NO CLASS – SPRING RECESS	
Thurs 3/22	NO CLASS – SPRING RECESS	
Tues 3/27	Chapter 8: Source & false memories	Application Assignment #4 (“Autobiographical memory”) due by beginning of class
Thurs 3/29	Chapter 8: False memories continued	

Tues 4/3	Chapter 8: Recovered memories	Application Assignment #5 (“False memory”) due by beginning of class
Thurs 4/5	Chapter 8: Recovered memories continued	
Tues 4/10	Exam 2 (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 13 and pages 181-188 of Chapter 6)	
Thurs 4/12	Chapter 6: Eyewitness memory	
Tues 4/17	Chapter 6: Eyewitness memory continued	
Thurs 4/19	Chapter 11: Memory in childhood	Application Assignment #6 (“Eyewitness memory and false memory”) due by beginning of class
Monday 4/23	<i>Note that this is the last day to withdraw from courses for serious and compelling reasons</i>	
Tues 4/24	Chapter 12: Memory in older adults	
Thurs 4/26	Chapter 12: Alzheimer’s disease and dementia	
Tues 5/1	Chapter 10: Amnesia	Application Assignment #7 (“Alzheimer’s disease”) due by beginning of class.
Thurs 5/3	No class (Dr. Barber is out of town for a conference).	
Tues 5/8	Chapter 10: Amnesia continued	Application Assignment #8 (Amnesia and the media”) due by beginning of class.
Thurs 5/10	Chapter 10: Retrograde amnesia and CTE	
Tues 5/15	Exam 3 (Chapters 6, 10, 11, and 12)	
Tues May 22nd, 8:00 to 10:30 AM	Mandatory Comprehensive Final Exam	