



**Advanced Topics in Cognition - Memory  
Psychology 623 - Winter 2007**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Glen Bodner	<b>Office/Phone</b>	Admin 218/220-2714	<b>Lecture time</b>	Wed 3-6 pm
<b>Office Hrs</b>	By appointment	<b>E-mail</b>	bodner@ucalgary.ca	<b>Lecture room</b>	Admin 151C

**Course Description**

You will develop a feasible, tractable, interesting proposal for a study on a human memory topic that excites you. You will contribute to the development of your peers' proposals via in-class discussion of relevant articles, and via peer reviewing of proposal drafts. Thus, the structure of the course will be collaborative rather than competitive.

**Evaluation**

**A. Article sharing (24%; first 3 x 3% = 9%; second 3 x 5% = 15%).** On designated weeks, you will (1) choose and distribute via email (at least 72 hours before class) a pdf of an article relevant to your research proposal topic, along with a brief paragraph that explains your choice and focuses our reading of it, and (2) lead a brief discussion of how you see that article feeding into your research proposal during class. This sharing process is intended to be informal so Powerpoint will not be used. However, you may email with the pdf, or distribute in class, a 1-page handout to further focus/foster discussion. In each of the first three weeks, choose an article on a different potential topic and share the ideas reading that article prompted. In remaining weeks, choose articles that will add depth and breadth to your proposal, both theoretically and experimentally. You can use the same article more than once as long as you lead a new/extended discussion on it each time. Article sharing is mandatory in the first three weeks. During the first class you will choose three dates from the remaining weeks. If you must miss one of your scheduled presentations, please arrange to swap presentation dates with a classmate, else your missed presentation will be replaced with your mean article-sharing grade at the end of term.

**B. Participation (12 x 1% = 12%).** You are expected to contribute to discussion each week. If you do not contribute, you will receive .5%. Missed classes will be replaced with your mean participation grade at the end of term.

**C. Research proposal proposal (4%).** Identify a specific, tractable question about memory that you could address with the resources available to you (see D for more information). Submit a 1-page proposal consisting of the following components: (1) a catchy, descriptive title in the form of a question; (2) a clear 150-200 word abstract describing your question and how you plan to investigate it (double-spaced), and; (3) a list of 3-5 key references. Your proposal proposal must show a clear focus and sense of direction. Your proposal is due in class on the due date (1% late penalty per week day). If your proposal proposal is not approved, you must rewrite it until it is approved, and you will lose 2% for each rewrite. You are free to modify or change your research question later.

**D. Research proposal (30%).** You will write an APA-formatted research proposal based on a memory topic that interests you and that is not directly part of your *current* research program. Your goal is to come up with one or more experiments that you could feasibly carry out as a research course or thesis project given the resources and participants available to you, that would make an important and original contribution to the literature on that topic. Your proposal should include the following labeled sections: abstract, introduction and background, proposal, method, analyses, predictions and implications, and references. The proposal body should be no more than 20 pages. It is due in (or before) the last class (3% late penalty per week day).

**E. Peer review 1 (10%) and 2 (10%).** You will read two of your peers' proposals and will type up critical but constructive reviews of 3-5 double-spaced pages. Provide helpful suggestions in sections labeled (1) summary and overall evaluation, (2) main points (e.g., conceptual, organizational) and (3) minor points (e.g., spelling, grammar, format). Turn in two copies of your review (1% late penalty per week day). I will evaluate one, and the other will be returned (along with any corrections made on the proposal) to the author. The peer review must stand on its own because I will not have a copy of the proposal that I can consult! All reviews must be signed.

**F. Proposal Presentation (10%).** You will present your proposal to us in 15 minutes, using PowerPoint, and you will then moderate a discussion period.

**Grade Scale**

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

Final grades will rounded up to the nearest whole percent (e.g., 89.5% = 90% but 89.4% = 89%).

## Schedule

Date	Activity
Wed Jan 10	Intro to course; Article sharing on potential topic 1 (8 articles)
Wed Jan 17	Article sharing on potential topic 2 (8 articles)
Wed Jan 24	Article sharing on potential topic 3 (8 articles)
Wed Jan 31	Research proposal idea sharing and discussion
Wed Feb 7	Research proposal proposal due; Article sharing on chosen topic (4 articles)
Wed Feb 14	Article sharing on chosen topic (4 articles)
<b>Week of Feb 19</b>	<b>Reading break – No class</b>
Wed Feb 28	Research proposal due; discussion of proposals
Wed Mar 7	Peer review 1 due; Article sharing on chosen topic (4 articles)
Wed Mar 14	Article sharing on chosen topic (4 articles)
Wed Mar 21	Revised research proposal due; Article sharing on chosen topic (4 articles)
Wed Mar 28	Peer review 2 due; Article sharing on chosen topic (4 articles)
Wed Apr 4	Proposal presentations and discussions
Wed Apr 11	Final research proposal due; discussion of course over food and beverage

### Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### Academic Accommodation

*It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations.* If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and *have not* registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and still *receive a fee refund* is January 19, 2007. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 13, 2007.