

Course Description v.2a

Psych 4270.03 A F17 Seminar in Memory & Cognition

Section: Psych 4270.03 A F17 Time: Thurs. 2:30 PM-5:30 PM Rm: R N201	Course Director: Prof. Vinod Goel Office/Lab: BSB 235/037 Tel: Ext. Email: vgoel@yorku.ca Office Hrs: Thurs., 5:30-6:30pm
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Prerequisites: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2030 3.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2530 3.00; one of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.00, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.00, AK/HH/PSYC 2510 3.00; one of AK/HH/PSYC 3130 3.00, AK/HH/PSYC 3135 3.00, AK/HH/PSYC 3260 3.00 (after Winter 2002), AS/SC/PSYC 3260 3.00, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 3265 3.00.

Course Credit Exclusion: AK/PSYC 4130 3.00 (taken between Fall/Winter 1992-1998)

Drop Date: Nov 10, 2017

Important Note regarding E-Mail/Internet Use: Severe pains in my arms prevent me from excessive typing. Therefore, please do not send me e-mail, except to make an appointment to meet in person. I will not be able to read and respond to it in a timely manner. I'm happy to answer your questions in class, during my office hours, or make an appointment to meet with you. I will also stay at the end of each class to answer individual questions.

General Description: This is an intermediate to advanced seminar on cognition, where cognition is recognized to be the goal directed (computational) manipulation of mental representations. The course will focus on the subdomains of reasoning, decision-making, and problem solving and the types of theories/models of thinking processes that the tasks, data, and intuitions from these subdomains have given rise to. We will examine these topics from cognitive, neuropsychological, and computational perspectives. Students will be exposed to current research, issues, and controversies in these areas.

Class Format: This is a seminar... not a lecture course. There will be no/few formal lectures. We will have several student led presentations each week.

- Requirements:**
- 1) One paper (30% of grade)
 - Draft 1 (10%)
 - Final (20%)
 - Details attached below.
 - 2) 3 Class Presentations (30% of grade)
 - Details attached below.
 - 3) 8 1pg article review submissions (30%)
 - Details attached below.
 - 4) Participation (10)
 - Details attached below.

Readings : *Articles provided on Moodle.*

Students will be required to read several articles per week, prior to coming to class.

Term Paper (30%):

A term paper (15-20 pages) addressing a preapproved topic relevant to the course is required. The paper will be graded not only for content, but also your ability to organize and express your thoughts in a structured, systematic, coherent fashion, using grammatical English sentences organized into paragraphs and sections. Term papers may be submitted to Turnitin to check for plagiarism. The topic of your paper must be different than the topics of your presentations.

Late Term Papers:

The term paper drafts and final copy are due at the beginning of class on the days indicated in the course schedule. Late assignments will be penalized 1 point if not submitted at the ***beginning*** of class, and one grade point per calendar day thereafter, and ***will not receive feedback***. As you will always have at least 2-3 weeks to complete the assignment, a doctor's note indicating illness will usually not suffice to waive the penalty. To be considered, a doctor's note must indicate that you were incapable of working for at least half the number of days between the handing out the assignment and the due date. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of class.

Short Summary Papers (30%):

Every week you will read the articles assigned for that week before coming to class. You will write a 1 pg summary of one of the articles and submit it at the beginning of class.

I'm looking for the following in the Summary papers:

1. A summary of the article in your own words.
2. Indication that you've understood and pulled out the key points.
3. Grammatical English sentences organized into paragraphs
4. Placing the article in the context of the course. How does it contribute to the main point under discussion that week, relate to other articles, etc.

You will usually need at least 500 words to do this.

Late Short Assignments: The short 1pg article reviews are due at the beginning of each class. Late assignments will be penalized TWO points if not submitted at the ***beginning*** of each class and one grade point per calendar day thereafter. As you will always have at least 2-3 weeks to complete an assignment, a doctor's note indicating illness will usually not suffice to waive the penalty. To be considered, a doctor's note must indicate that you were incapable of working for at least half the number of days between the handing out the assignment and the due date. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of class.

Class Presentations (30%):

Every student will be responsible for making 3 class presentations. Each presentation should be accompanied by PowerPoint slides and last about 30 minutes. Submit the slides to me at the end of the presentation. For shorter papers you may need to combine several. To maximize your grade pull in relevant material not on the course outline. You must schedule one presentation in Sept; one in Oct; one in Nov.

Participation Grade (10%):

Constructive vocal classroom participation will be worth 10 points.... Particularly facilitating discussion during student presentations. There will be no substitute assignments to make up

Sept. 9, 2017

missed/poor participation grades. Make sure that your schedule and health permit you to attend class and participate in these exercises regularly.

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's words and ideas as you own. This is a very serious academic offense. Do your own assignments and acknowledge all your sources. The penalty for plagiarism will be in accordance with the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

Student Feedback: I welcome constructive comments on course organization, lectures (content, style, presentation), assignments, etc.

Office Hours: Make use of the office hours. They are for your benefit.

Psych 4270.03 A Fall 2017-18
Proposed Schedule
Draft #2a (subject to change)

Week	Date	Seminar Topics	Readings & Presentations	Assignments
1	Sept 7	Missed class due to schedule confusion		
2	Sept 14	Administration/ Intro	Goel: Reason & Less	
3	Sept 21	• From reflex arcs to instincts to associations	• <i>Instincts</i> <i>Willaim James</i> <i>Darwin</i> <i>Shettleworth</i>	1pg article review
4	Sept 28	From Associations to Structured Representations	• <i>Cassier</i> • <i>Davidson</i> • <i>Bermudez</i> • <i>Darwin's Mistake- Penn</i> <i>Darwin's Mistake- Premack</i>	1pg article review
5	Oct 5	From Representation to Computation:PSS/LOT	<i>Leibnez</i> • <i>Newell/</i> • <i>Goel</i>	1pg article review
6	Oct 12	• Rationality 1: Reasoning	<i>Henle</i> <i>Johnson-Laird1</i> <i>Johnson-Laird2</i> <i>Evans1</i> <i>Evans2</i>	1pg article review
7	Oct 19	Rationality 2: Decision Making	<i>Gigerenzer1996Psych Rev</i> <i>KahnemanTversky1996PsychRev1</i> <i>Todd-Gigerenzer_BBS</i> <i>Tversky_Kahneman</i>	1pg article review Draft 1 Term Paper

	Oct 26	Reading Day – no class		
8	Nov 2	...or is it just Instincts after all?	<i>Cosmides & Tooby</i>	1pg article review
9	Nov 9	Some relevant Instincts	Mate selection Alfa cues Cinderella	1pg article review
10	Nov 16	Inadequacy of Instincts: What happens to rationality in the absence of the Gap/Free Will? Larger nature/nurture issues: Sociobiology & Critics	<i>Fodor</i> <i>Chiappe & MacDonald</i>	1pg article review
11	Nov 23	Emotions, hormones, addictions, mental disorders, etc: Other nonconceptual biases		1pg article review
12	Nov 30	Reason and Less: Reason modulated by nonconceptual factors		1pg article review Final Term Paper Due

Note: Readings must be completed prior to the relevant class. See Moodle for the complete and list of readings.