

Syllabus
Special Topics in Psychology: Memory
Spring 2024

Professor: Nicholas Maxwell, PhD	Course #: PSYC 4973, Sec. 201
Office: OD 118	Time: 11:00am – 11:20pm; TR
email: nicholas.maxwell@msutexas.edu	Location: PY101
	Office Hours: MWF: 10:00am – 11:00am; W: 1:00 – 3:00

Required Texts:

Memory: Foundations and Applications (4th Edition) by Bennett L. Schwartz

Course Objectives:

This class introduces concepts and theories surrounding human memory as well as various research methods used to investigate questions related to memory. By taking this class, you will:

1. Have a greater understanding of the mechanisms behind human memory, including various proposed memory systems and the interplay between them.
2. Learn about historical and current research in memory, including future research directions.
3. Understand the practical applications of memory research, such as effective study strategies and best practices for enhancing memory.

Attendance:

Class attendance is ***required***. If you do miss class, you will be responsible for the material you missed when absent. No make-up exams will be given **except in the case of an emergency**, such as a serious illness, a serious accident, or a death in the family. *You must verify your emergency with documentation. You must contact me via email no later than 24 hours after the missed exam.* If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Students with more than four absences will be dropped from the course with a failing grade.

Course Requirements:

1. **Exams:** Students will complete ***three*** exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a total of 300 points (60% of your final grade).
2. **Chapter Quizzes:** Students will complete 13 weekly chapter quizzes. These quizzes will contain are designed to help you prepare for the exam. Quizzes are due each Friday at 11:59pm the and count for 12.5 points each (***Lowest quiz grade dropped***; 150 points total; 30% of final grade).
3. **Class participation and attendance:** Students get the most out of their college experience when they show up to class and actively participate. To facilitate class participation, we will randomly complete activities and/or discussions in class. Your participation grade will be based on your ***participation in class discussions, general attendance, and completion of in-class activities***. Course participation is worth ***50*** points towards your final grade (10% of your final grade)

Grades:

Your final grade in the course will be calculated based on ***500*** total points.

500-450:	A
449-400:	B
399-350:	C
349-300	D
< 300:	F

Email Policy:

You are required to use your MSU Texas email accounts for this class. I will not send emails to any other email accounts. I will also not send out class information to any other email address other than your university email account. **Before emailing me about your question, make sure that your question has not been answered/addressed in the syllabus or elsewhere!** When emailing me, please put the course number (PSYC 4973) AND section number (Sec. 201) in the subject line. This will immediately let me know which class you are in so I can respond faster.

I will try my best to get back to you within 24-hours (during the week) or within 3 days (weekends, holidays, if you decide to email me at 10:00pm on Friday...). ***If you email me with no context, I will not respond***

Cell Phones:

Unless you anticipate that you might receive an emergency communication, please turn off your cell phones in class. If you receive an **emergency** phone call or text in class, please excuse yourself and quietly leave the classroom to take the message.

Cheating Policy:

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating on exams or written assignments will result in dismissal from this class with a grade of "F" and referral to the Dean of Students. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using unauthorized notes of any kind during an exam, looking on another's exam, allowing another student to look on your exam, plagiarism, and self-plagiarism.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

This course utilizes the MSU D2L program for assignment submission. Relevant course materials will also be posted on D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

Disability Services:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Disability Support Services (DSS) during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

Midterm Grade Reports:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. **Midterm progress reports will only be provided for students with a grade of C or less in the course.** Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcripts, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester.

Change of Schedule:

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Important Dates

Last day for Spring 24 schedule changes: **1/19**

Deadline to file for **MAY** graduation: **2/12**

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": **3/25**

Refer to: Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Course Schedule

A note on the schedule: This schedule represents an ideal outline of what we'll cover in the course. That being said, we may occasionally get behind (or ahead!) of it. If that happens, I will modify the schedule and any exam content accordingly. Updated schedules may be periodically posted on D2L. I will try to send out announcements, but it's important that you regularly attend class!

The Current Schedule

Week of	Date	Topic	Book Chapter	Notes:
1/15 – 1/19	1/16	Course Overview/Introduction to the study of Memory	Ch. 1	Read Syllabus
	1/18	Introduction to the Study of Memory	Ch. 1	Chapter 1 Quiz Due 1/19 @ 11:59pm
1/22 – 1/26	1/23	Neuroscience of Memory	Ch. 2	
	1/25	Neuroscience of Memory	Ch. 2	Chapter 2 Quiz Due 1/26 @ 11:59pm
1/29 – 2/2	1/30	Working Memory	Ch. 3	
	2/1	Working Memory	Ch. 3	Chapter 3 Quiz Due 2/2 @ 11:59pm
2/5 – 2/9	2/6	Episodic Memory	Ch. 4	

	2/8	Episodic Memory	Ch. 4	Chapter 4 Quiz Due 2/9 @ 11:59pm
2/12 – 2/16	2/13	Semantic Memory	Ch. 5	
	2/15	Semantic Memory	Ch. 5	Chapter 5 Quiz Due 2/16 @ 11:59pm
2/19 – 2/23	2/20	Exam 1	Chs. 1 - 5	
	2/22	Autobiographical Memory	Ch. 6	Chapter 6 Quiz Due 2/23 @ 11:59pm
2/26 – 3/1	2/27	False Memory	Ch. 7	
	2/29	False Memory	Ch. 7	Chapter 7 Quiz Due 3/1 @ 11:59pm
3/4 – 3/8	3/5	Metamemory	Ch. 8	
	3/7	Metamemory	Ch. 8	Chapter 8 Quiz Due 3/8 @ 11:59pm
3/11 – 3/15	3/12	Spring Break		
	3/14	Spring Break		
3/18 – 3/22	3/19	Memory & Development	Ch. 9	
	3/21	Memory & Development	Ch. 9	Chapter 9 Quiz Due 3/22 @ 11:59pm
3/25 – 3/29	3/26	Exam 2	Chs. 6 - 9	
	3/28	No Class! (SWPA Conference)		
4/1 – 4/5	4/2	Memory Impairments	Ch. 10	
	4/4	Memory Impairments	Ch. 10	Chapter 10 Quiz Due 4/5 @ 11:59pm
4/8 – 4/12	4/9	Memory and Clinical Disorders	Ch. 11	
	4/11	Memory and Clinical Disorders	Ch. 11	Chapter 11 Quiz Due 4/12 @ 11:59pm
4/15 – 4/19	4/16	Memory and Legal Psychology	Ch. 12	
	4/18	Memory and Legal Psychology	Ch. 12	Chapter 12 Quiz Due 4/19 @ 11:59pm

4/22 – 4/26	4/23	Memory Improvement/Learning	Ch. 13	
	4/25	Memory Improvement/Learning	Ch. 13	Chapter 13 Quiz Due 4/26 @ 11:59pm
4/29 – 5/3	4/30	No Class (Study for Exam!)		
	5/2	Exam 3	Chs. 10 - 13	
Final	No Final 			