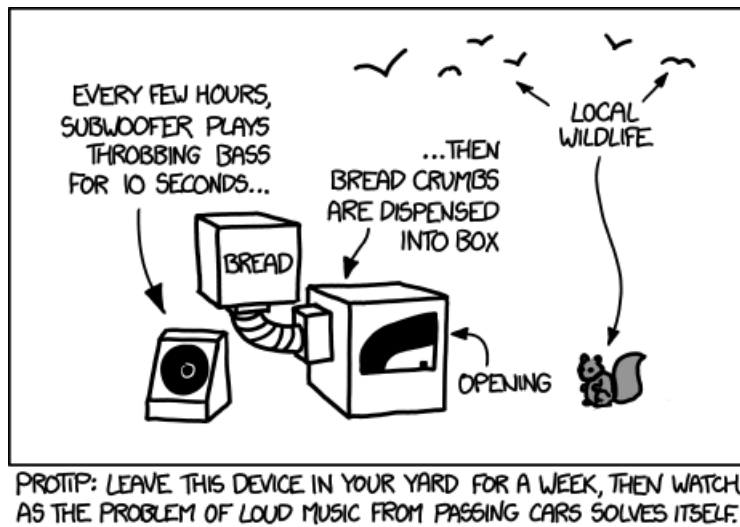


Psychology 2330a:
Learning and Memory
Fall 2014



<http://xkcd.com/1156/>

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The principal objective of this course is to provide you with a grounding in learning theory that will serve you well in further courses in psychology. Thus, the first portion of the course will deal with historically interesting findings and interpretations in learning theory many of which happened before either of us were born. An additional objective is to introduce you to some of the current research in psychology that focusses on the interaction between learning theory and other cognitive processes including memory and categorization. Thus, the latter portion of the course will focus on more recent issues in learning theory including such topics as general learning mechanisms in perceptual and addictive processes, higher-level cognition in nonhuman (and human) animals and neural network models of learning and memory.

Textbook

The textbook has been custom-written for this course by a brilliant psychologist. It is exclusively available at the U of L bookstore:

Allen, S. W. (2014). *Learning and cognition: Lecture notes*. Lethbridge, AB: Psyence Publishing Society. ISBN: 978-0-9920015-2-0

Additional readings will be made available via Moodle.

Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be based on 2 midterm exams (worth 30% each) and one final exam (worth 40%). The exams will be cumulative only in the sense that life is cumulative—that is, each exam will focus on the information presented since the preceding exam, but understanding that information will depend on mastering the earlier information (i.e., I won't be going back and asking trivia questions from chapter 1 on the final exam). Each exam will be computer administered via Moodle. It will be up to you to go to the Testing Centre some time within the allotted period to take the tests (information on the testing centre is available from the top menu of Moodle or <http://www.uleth.ca/teachingcentre/testing-centre>). The tests will not be administered during class periods. The tests will contain multiple guess questions and may contain short answer questions. The dates during which you will be allowed to write the tests are as follows (These times may change due to the availability of the computer lab for the tests):

Midterm 1: October 3 - 9

Midterm 2: November 7-13

Final Exam: December 8-16

No excuses for missed tests will be accepted other than documented, prolonged illness. Make-up tests will not normally be provided. The work you submit on your exams *must be your own*. It is an academic offence to submit someone else's work as your own. Please see section 4 of Academic Offences, Student Discipline Policy—academic offences (p. 78 of the 2014 academic year calendar) for details.

Research Participation

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in active research programs of faculty members. This participation allows you to get direct experience in how many of the experiments and studies you will read and hear about are actually done (at least those involving human participants), and provides an opportunity for you to see what goes on in the labs, and meet senior undergraduate and graduate students conducting their own laboratory research projects. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester, generally, through the Sona system. If you choose to volunteer, each project usually requires less than one hour of your time, but the exact time commitment will depend on the individual research project. In recognition for your time, and in recognition that you are learning something about the discipline of psychology, beyond what you would in the normal classroom environment, an extra credit of 1% for each study in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a maximum of 3% (so, it is theoretically possible to score 103%). Note that there is no guarantee that all or even any students will be able to achieve the maximum extra credit. As these are extra credits, students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

The available studies will be listed on the system at <http://psychleth.sona-systems.com>. Your username will be the same one you use to access Moodle. A password will be emailed to you (i.e., it won't be your email password). The system should be available starting around September 12, 2014 and the deadline for participating in research is December 4th, 2014.

Questions and Discussion

Preferably, all questions and discussion about the course material should occur during class time, including questions and discussion about the exams,

Table 1: Percentages will be converted to minimum letter-grades using this scale. Note that marks will not be rounded (i.e., 69.9% is less than 70% and is thus a C+). Minimum letter-grade here refers to the lowest letter-grade that will be assigned on the basis of your objective performance; however, higher letter-grades may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
90-100	A+	67-70	C+
85-90	A	63-67	C
80-85	A-	60-63	C-
77-80	B+	55-60	D+
73-77	B	50-55	D
70-73	B-	<50	F

so that all students benefit from the discussion. Each lecture will begin with an explicit call for questions, although students are encouraged to ask questions at any time during the class. In addition, students are encouraged to post questions and commentary to the class email list: psyc2330a@uleth.ca, both to provoke discussion, and to receive clarification (if needed) from the instructor and the TAs for the course; doing so will most often result in a prompt and considered response. Grades and supplementary materials will be made available via Moodle <https://moodle.uleth.ca>, so be sure to familiarize yourself with the system.

Class Times

Classes are scheduled from September 4, 2014 to Dec 2, 2014, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:50 am - 12:05 pm in PE 250.

Consultation Outside of Class

No formal office hours are scheduled. Rather, I may be contacted in my office, UH D864. Please feel free to drop in with any questions, comments, or opinions you may have. I would prefer that in the first instance you use e-mail to communicate with me (allens@uleth.ca) and your fellow classmates (psyc2330a@uleth.ca).

Web Sites and email

Course Information

All students have a U of L email account. Your Moodle username is equivalent to your email username (the part of your email address that comes before “@uleth.ca”) and your Moodle password is your email password. You will need to access Moodle (<https://moodle.uleth.ca>) in order to obtain course information, exams, and supplementary material. If you require assistance with anything related to using computers at the U of L, please contact the Student Help Desk.

Email Accounts

Our primary method of communicating with you for general notices will be via email and in-class announcements. Please be sure you check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your usual email provider. Please do regular housekeeping so that you do not miss important notices that relate to this class due to a full mailbox.

Welcome to the course. I hope you will have a fruitful and enjoyable semester -S.A.

