

PSY471H1 S

Seminar in Cognition

Winter 2024 Syllabus

Course Meetings

PSY471H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0301 Event Cognition and Memory	Friday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	In Person: BL 312

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Course Contacts

Course Website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/339351>

Instructor: Alexander Barnett

Email: alexander.barnett@utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: By Appointment

Additional Notes: Please include the course code in the email subject line.

Course Overview

This course will take a deep dive on a re-emerging area of research—event cognition and memory. Events in our lives can be incredibly complex. In this course, we will survey the research examining 1. how we comprehend/interpret events, 2. how we segment the continuous stream of occurrences into discrete events, 3. how our comprehension and segmentation affect our memory, and 4. the neural underpinnings of event comprehension, segmentation and memory. In this course we will discuss the cutting-edge techniques that are now being applied to understand events (such as natural language processing and eye-tracking) and to image these underlying processes (using fMRI, and EEG). Students will generate their own hypotheses and critiques about the event cognition and memory and design experiments to test novel hypotheses. Beyond learning about theories of memory, the course will also focus on developing practical skills relevant for careers both in and out of academia. These include: public speaking, providing constructive feedback to peers, benefiting from feedback received from peers, and succinctly describing one’s ideas and convincing others of their merit – either in the written or spoken form.

Course Learning Outcomes

Prerequisites:

PSY202H1/ECO220Y1/SOC252H1/STA221H1/PSY202H5/STA221H5/PSYC08H3/STAB27H3/STAC32H3, and PSY270H1/PSY270H5/PSYB57H3/COG250Y1

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: PSY471H5/PSYD50H3

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course.

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Participation	15%		2024-01-12,2024-01-19,2024-01-26,2024-02-02,2024-02-09,2024-02-16,2024-03-01,2024-03-08,2024-03-15,2024-03-22
Final Paper	30%		2024-04-05
Weekly Reflections	20%		2024-01-19,2024-01-26,2024-02-02,2024-02-09,2024-02-16,2024-03-01,2024-03-08,2024-03-15,2024-03-22
Discussion lead	15%	Students will have the opportunity to sign up to lead the discussion on one of the papers assigned on a given week.	No Specific Date
Presentation	20%	Students will have the opportunity to sign up to present one of the papers assigned on a given week.	No Specific Date

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

Assignments will be penalized 10% for each day after the deadline, to a maximum of 4 days (40%) after which papers will no longer be accepted. Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances (i.e. illness or family emergency) with valid documentation as described in Specific Medical Circumstances. If you require an extension, email me as soon as

possible when an exceptional circumstance has arisen. There will be a one-time, 15-minute leeway period on final submissions. To use this one-time leeway, email the course instructor once your assignment has been submitted.

Policies & Statements

Generative AI

On the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) Tools: Students may use these tools for assignments. If you choose to use generative artificial intelligence tools to assist you in the assignments in this course, this use must be documented in an appendix for each assignment. The documentation should include what tool(s) were used, how they were used (e.g., include your prompts), and how the results from the AI were incorporated into the submitted work. These tools can be most helpful in improving your writing and clear expression of your ideas (rather than trying to generate complete content which is unlikely to meet the standards of the assignments).

Re-marking Policy - Timeline and Protocol

If you believe an assignment has received a grade in error, you may submit an appeal. An appeal must be submitted within 14 days after the graded assignment is made available to students. Documents submitted for an appeal will be re-graded in their entirety. As a result, your grade may increase, but it may also stay the same or even decrease.

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Specific Medical Circumstances

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.