Psychology 139J: Forgetting
University of California, Santa Cruz
Summer 2017

Class Meetings: June 26th – July 28th, 2017

Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am - 12:30pm
Location: Social Sciences 2, Room 171

Professor: Benjamin C. Storm, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-2:00, and by apt.
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Basic Information:

In this seminar we will explore the mechanisms of forgetting and the essential role of forgetting in the adaptive functioning of human memory. Evaluations will be based on attendance/participation, quizzes, presentations, and written assignments. Enrollment is restricted to senior psychology and cognitive science majors who have successfully completed Psych 100.

Although not formal prerequisites, the course is designed to build on the successful completion of previous coursework related to memory and cognition (Psych 20a, Psych 129). Each class will involve active discussion and a critical examination of theories, phenomena, and issues related to human memory.

The course is highly work-intensive. Students should expect to work up to 30 hours per week during the 5-week session. First, attendance is mandatory. Second, there will be several reading assignments for each class period. Third, there will be six in-class quizzes. Fourth, in addition to the assigned readings, students will need to find and read numerous articles related to their paper topics. Fifth, students will write two formal papers, each of which will require considerable time to be drafted, revised, and completed. Sixth, students will make two presentations to the class.

Assigned readings will be made available on Canvas. Your written assignments must be prepared in APA style.

Assignments and Sources of Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation (10%). Students are expected to attend class every day, show up on time, and actively participate in discussion. Up to two points will be deducted if you are absent, arrive late, or leave early (without a valid excuse). Please email the professor before the start of class if you know you are going to be late or unable to attend. Remember that missing one class session is the equivalent of missing a week during the regular school year. You may be asked to share your work with others for peer review.
and feedback. Such exercises provide valuable learning opportunities (but please talk to
the professor during office hours if it is something with which you would be
uncomfortable).

Quizzes (30%). There will be six quizzes, each consisting of 10 multiple-choice
questions administered during the first 20 minutes of class. Each quiz will focus on the
material covered for that day’s readings (6/28, 7/3, 7/5, 7/12, 7/17, 7/19). Your five
highest scores will count towards your final grade (your lowest score will be dropped). If
you miss a quiz (regardless of whether your absence is excused) you will receive a zero
on that quiz and that zero will count as your lowest score. Students are allowed to use
their hand-written notes while taking the quizzes, but they are not allowed to use their
computers, phones, or the actual articles.

Topic Presentation (5%). Each student will give a brief presentation at the end of one of
the class meetings (~10 minutes; weeks 2-4). Presentations are meant to be fun and
creative, connecting the topic of the day to a new idea/area of research/personal story/etc.
For example, students can present an empirical article, propose a research idea, prompt
debate, share a relevant story, or rant against something said in one of the readings.

Preliminary Paper (15%). Students will write a focused review (5 pages) on one of the
five topics (to be assigned week 1). To receive credit, you will need to bring a printed
version of your paper to class by 9am on Monday, July 10th. Late papers will not be
accepted for credit, so be sure to turn in whatever you have completed. Specific
information about the preliminary paper assignment will be discussed in class and is
available on Canvas.

Final Paper (35%). Students will build upon their preliminary paper in their final paper
(9 pages), which is due by email at 9am on Thursday, July 27th. Late papers will be
accepted, but one letter grade will be deducted for every day your paper is late (papers
late by 10 minutes will be considered one day late). Specific information about the final
paper assignment will be discussed in class and is available on Canvas. In short, it will
involve a substantial revision of your topic review and the development/exploration of a
new idea related to your topic.

Final Presentation (5%). Each student will present a draft of their final paper in the form
of an oral presentation with powerpoint (~15 minutes; week 5).

Additional Information:

Students with Disabilities: Any student who thinks they may need accommodation based
on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to submit their Accommodation
Authorization and discuss specific needs, preferably within the first two weeks of the
quarter. Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 831-459-2089 in room 146
Hahn Student Services or by e-mail at drc@ucsc.edu to coordinate the accommodations.

Distribution of Lecture Notes: Please note that students may be disciplined for selling,
preparing, or distributing course lecture notes for any commercial purpose, whether or
not they were the person taking the notes. The unauthorized sale of lecture notes (and
handouts, readers or other course materials) is a violation of campus policies, state law, and may also constitute copyright infringement subject to legal action.

**Academic Integrity:** Scholarship and academic integrity are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCSC community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Students who plagiarize or cheat on any assignment may be subject to various disciplinary actions including a failing grade on an assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the University. Be sure to follow appropriate citation practices and be sure to familiarize yourself with the University’s Rules of Conduct.

**Schedule of topics and papers:**

**Week 1:** Introduction to the Class and to Research on Memory and Forgetting

McDermott, K. N., & Roediger, H. L. (NOBA). Memory (encoding, storage, retrieval).

Dudukovic, N., & Kuhl, B. (NOBA). Forgetting and amnesia.


*June 28 – Introduction (quiz)

**Weeks 2-4:** Topic Lectures/Presentations/Discussions (readings will be posted by June 29th)

July 3 – Voluntary Suppression of Thoughts and Memories (quiz)

July 5 – Sleep and Forgetting (quiz)

July 10 – Memory, Movies, and More!
*Preliminary papers must be printed and brought to class by 9am*

July 12 – Human Memory in the Age of the Internet (quiz)

July 17 – Reconsolidation: Therapy and Applications (quiz)

July 19 – False Memories and Eyewitness Testimony (quiz)

**Week 5:** Final Paper Presentations

*Final papers must be emailed to the professor by 9am on Thursday, July 27th*