

Psychology 425: Attention and Distraction

<p>Instructor: Dr. Harvey Shulman</p> <p>200c Lazenby Hall 1827 Neil Ave</p> <p>Office Hrs: by appointment 292-2759</p> <p>email: shulman.1@osu.edu</p>	<p>This course will survey 7-9 distinct topics on attention selected for their multi disciplinary applicability (e.g. ergonomics, brain injury and attention, developmental disabilities and attention). Findings from Cognitive and Human Experimental research will be integrated with selected areas of Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychopathology in order to explore the topic of attention from multiple perspectives.</p>
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Textbook: Styles, E. *The Psychology of Attention*, Psychology Press (2E), 2006 isbn 1-84169-397-9 (pbk)

POWERPOINT NOTES: A set of lecture outlines including most of the graphs and figures presented in class is available for download on the course WebCT site

Learning Objectives:

Students will become acquainted with the basic questions that Psychologists ask about attention

Students will learn the key research methods used to investigate attention and to describe appropriate research techniques for answering questions about attention.

Students will learn about key research findings and will be able to apply these findings to the understanding of basic theoretical issues

Students will become acquainted with the neural substrates of several aspects of attention

Students will learn to discuss the knowledge base described above in a series of written homework assignments that stress discovery and integration

Grades: Final grades will be based on the total points earned from tests, homework, and attendance, as follows

POINTS	GRADE
110	A
105-109	B+
100-104	B
95-99	C+
85-94	C
75-84	D+
60-74	D
<60	E

Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25
Final exam	25
Homework	50
attendance	10
Total	135

Homework Assignments: are distributed on the Carmen uploading to the website by the stated deadline. Students are

responsible for monitoring the website for weekly assignments which generally become available on Thursday and are due by Monday evening.

Attendance Policy: Attendance at lectures is optional. Note that Information covered in lecture will be included on tests whether or not it is covered in the textbook. To reward those who attend class attendance will be taken about 4-5 times per quarter without advance notice. Absences do not require an excuse unless an exam was missed. Absence due to military responsibilities or representation of the University in an official capacity will not be penalized, provided advance notice is given by the student.

Week	Date	Topic	Styles
1		Introduction Conceptual models of attention: filters, resources,	1 2,6 (164-174)
2		What cognitive processes are altered by attention ?	2,3
3		Alertness and sustained attention (Vigilance)	Assigned readings
4		Orienting and other reflex mechanisms of Attention QUIZ 1	3
5		Attention as the glue in binding features into objects	4
		How is attention targeted ? Locations vs Objects	4
6		Locations vs objects and Attentional Neglect Syndrome	3
		Executive Control Mechanisms (frontal lobe functions)	8
7		Attention Deficits in Psychiatric Disorders	Assigned readings
8		Multimodal Attention	5

		QUIZ 2	
9		Divided Attention & Mental Workload (capacity)	6
10		Automaticity, Skill and Expertise	7 (183-195)

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487).

For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp). You are expected to be aware of this information for this class.

Statement on Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.