

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**Academic School:** Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

**Programme:** Psychology

**FHEQ Level:** 6

**Course Title:** Memory and Awareness

**Course Code:** PSY 6410

**Course Leader:** Dr Ira Konstantinou

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 30

Seminar / Tutorials: 15

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

**Semester:** Fall/Spring

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to key topics, theories and scientific methods in the study of memory with a specific focus on the concept of consciousness in memory. We will first cover concepts and methodological approaches in memory followed by a discussion on the models of memory proposed by different theorists. These topics will set the basis for a more in depth examination of neuroanatomy and psychopharmacology in relation to memory models leading to the topics of encoding vs. retrieval parameters and distortions of memory. The implications of findings in the aforementioned areas regarding the educational and legal systems will be studied. The connection of these areas with consciousness will then be established and a more in depth discussion of concepts will follow including recollection and familiarity, episodic memory and auto-noetic consciousness, nonconscious memory, memory for emotional events etc.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 4215 Biological Basis of Human Behavior and 4205 Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology

### **Aims and Objectives:**

This course introduces students to the key topics, theories and scientific methods involved in the study of memory and awareness and how they developed. We will first discuss the different memory models and why scientists are interested in this

field. Then we will move on to examine different areas of memory research such as the mechanisms of the encoding, storage and retrieval and the neuroanatomical basis of those. Special emphasis will be placed on the applications of memory and awareness theories through experimentation and the critical evaluation of these. Also we will discuss ethical issues in psychological research related to memory and awareness.

**Programme Outcomes :**

6Aii, 6Aiii, 6Bii, 6Ci, 6Cii, 6Civ, 6Diii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of major concepts and models in the study of memory and memory awareness and an ability to critically evaluate these
- Demonstrate systematic knowledge of the major findings in memory research with a special focus on awareness
- Demonstrate an thorough understanding of the cognitive, neurological and developmental perspectives in these areas and an ability to critically appraise
- Gain an insight in the connections between memory in the laboratory and in real life
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and analyse the common misunderstandings relating to memory with a view to debate issues central to applied topics

**Indicative Content:**

- History of memory research
- Concepts and Methods in memory
- Memory models
- Neuroanatomy of memory
- Psychopharmacological issues in memory
- Encoding and retrieval
- Distortions of memory
- Implications focus: Eye-witness Testimony
- Theories of memory and consciousness
- Recollection and familiarity processes in retrieval
- Autonoetic awareness and episodic memory
- Nonconscious memory

- Memory and theory of mind
- Memory for life events
- Emotional memory
- Aging and memory

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts
- II. Group discussions on the material
- III. Related journal articles
- IV. Internet sites related to psychology
- V. On-line experiments

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list.

***IndicativeText(s):***

Tulving & F.I.M. Craik (2000). *The Oxford Handbook of Memory*. New York: Oxford University Press.

***Journals***

Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience  
Cognitive Brain Research  
Memory  
Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology  
Applied Cognitive Psychology  
Cognitive Neuropsychology  
British Journal of Psychology  
Journal of Memory and Language

***Web Sites***

