Course Overview
This course focuses on the topic of human memory and its application to real-world problems. Topics to be covered include false memory, eyewitness memory, organic and psychogenic amnesia, the effects of healthy and abnormal aging on memory, etc. The class will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. I will assign papers for each topic to be covered. The readings will consist mainly of empirical and theoretical journal articles and some recent review papers. The readings will be distributed electronically. Each week, I will assign 3-4 papers for reading. You will be responsible for completing these reading assignments prior to the class. You will also need to submit at least 1 discussion question for each assigned paper 24 hours before the class meeting time. In addition, you will be responsible for a very brief (~5 min) presentation on of the assigned papers on a turn-taking basis. Details about these presentations will be announced during the first class meeting.

Class Requirements

1) **Attendance:** Because this is a seminar course, class attendance is mandatory and extremely important.

2) **Discussion Questions:** You will need to email me at least 1 discussion question (feel free to submit more) for each assigned paper no later than 5pm the Tuesday before each class (which is basically 24 hr before each class). The discussion questions should center around theoretical or applied issues – not clarification questions.

3) **Periodic class presentations:** Brief (~ 5 min) presentations on readings will be required. Presentations should include a summary of the questions asked, the design of the experiments, and the findings and its overall implications. An important feature of these presentations is their length. By keeping the presentations short, you are expected to distill the key aspects of the papers and report only the essential parts. This is often referred to as an “elevator presentation” because it reports the essential aspects of the results in the very short time. Try to give these presentations without using Powerpoints or slides. Use only a chalk, the blackboard, and your voice to give these presentations.

4) **Participation during class discussions:** Many of you will have different levels of background knowledge with regard to these topics, so feel free to speak up! There are no bad discussions.
Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1. Organizational Meeting and an Introduction to the Study of Memory

No Required Readings

Week 2. The Everyday Memory debate

Week 3. Organic amnesia

Week 4. Implicit Memory

Week 5. Psychogenic amnesia

Week 6. Confabulation

Week 7. Flash bulb memory
Week 8. Extraordinary memory


Week 9. Eyewitness memory – Lineups


Week 10. Eyewitness memory – Memory for events, classic studies


Week 11. Eyewitness memory – Memory for events, special topics


Week 12. Laboratory-based false memories


Week 13. Rich false memories


**Week 14. The recovered memory controversy**


**Week 15. Developmental changes in memory – Alzheimer’s disease**


**Week 16. Developmental changes in memory – Healthy aging**


