

## PSI 428 Attentional Processes

Welcome

## Course Description

- This course introduces the topic of attention as it is investigated and explained by the cognitive psychologists. Topics on selective attention, divided attention, attentional set, automaticity, effort, control etc. will be covered during the semester.

## The Goal of the Course

- To develop an understanding for the information-processing approach to explain attention and to learn about the classical studies on attentional processes
- To foster your ability to read and understand contemporary experimental psychology articles
- To gain an in depth understanding on one of the topics of attention by giving an in-class presentation, and by presenting a research proposal poster.
- To understand the importance of theory-based interpretation in the experimental psychology by contributing in-class discussions

## Understanding Classics of Attentional Research

- Attention is one of the first topics of interest in information processing approach to cognition, i.e. «cognitive psychology»
- Broadbend (1958) «Perception and communication»
  - Selection of information from sensory channels
  - Effects of selection on behavior

## Understanding Classics of Attentional Research

- How does cognitive psychology approach to a topic of interest?
  - How theories are constructed?
  - Which questions are asked?
  - Which methods are developed to answer these questions?
- How these are changed with scientific advancement?

## Understanding Classics of Attentional Research

- We will learn classical theories, studies and results from textbooks
  - Pashler, H. E. (1998). *The psychology of attention*, 2. Ed., MIT Press: Cambridge.
  - Styles, E.A. (2006). *The psychology of attention*, 2. Ed., Psychology Press: Hove and New York.
- Each week we will focus on another topic.
- I will give lectures on the classical studies

## Reading and Interpreting Psychology Articles

- The most common medium of transfer of knowledge in psychology is journal articles.
- Interesting and exiting facts mostly lie in details
  - General conclusions are based on specific details.

## Reading and Interpreting Psychology Articles

- Each week, we will read a contemporary experimental psychology article on attention
- You will write and submit a critical reflection of the article of the week
  - Summarize the article
  - Discuss how the article extends the understanding of the topic of the week.

## In Depth Understanding

- Developing an in depth understanding of a topic requires effort and practice.
- Some practices in cognitive psychology that may help you to understand a topic better:
  - Writing a review article
  - Writing a research proposal
  - Writing an empirical article
  - Presenting your view of the topic, your proposal or your results.

## In Depth Understanding

- Presentation of the article of the week
  - In-class discussions
- Developing a research proposal
  - Poster presentation
  - Research proposal manuscript

## Seeing Data via the Lens of a theory

- Experimental psychology studies are diverse in their methods
  - There is no limit on the use of stimuli
  - There is no limit on the definition of a task
- Without a theory, experimental results could no be understood correctly

## Course Requirements

- There will be
- seven (7) reaction papers,
- an article presentation,
- a poster proposal presentation
- Attendance and participation to in-class discussions will be graded.

## Grading

- Reaction Papers 35% (7 reaction papers each 5%)
- Article Presentation 25%
- Poster Proposal Presentation
- Participation 10% (0.25% for each class hour)
- In-class Discussions 5% (graded by the instructor)

## Course Materials

- **Reference Material:** Pashler, H. E., & Sutherland, S. (1998). *The psychology of attention*. Cambridge, MA: MIT press.
- **Articles: (*To be announced*)** Scientific articles reporting empirical studies on the selected topics of attention.

## Submissions of Reflection Papers

- **TURNITIN:** The submission and grading of reaction papers will be handles via the TURNITIN website ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)). Please register to the class on TURNITIN as soon as possible.
- **Class Name:** TOBBETU PSI 428 **Class ID:** 12579122 **Enrolment Password:** psi428

## Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1.1	May 2 PZT	No Class – ESCOP Conference	
Week 1.2	May 3 SA	No Class – ESCOP Conference	
Week 2.1	May 9 PZT	No Class – ESCOP Conference	
Week 2.2	May 10 SA	What is attention? & Theories of attention	CH 1
Week 3.1	May 16 PZT	Selective Attention	CH 2
Week 3.2	May 17 SA	Article Presentation (Instructor)	Article A
Week 4.1	May 23 PZT	Selective Attention cont.	CH 2
Week 4.2	May 24 SA	Article Presentation (Instructor)	Article B
Week 5.1	May 30 PZT	Divided Attention	CH 3
Week 5.2	May 31 SA	Article Presentation (Student)	Article 1
Week 6.1	June 6 PZT	Divided Attention cont.	CH 3
Week 6.2	June 7 SA	Article Presentation (Student)	Article 2
Week 7.1	June 13 PZT	Attentional Set	CH 4
Week 7.2	June 14 SA	Article Presentation (Student)	Article 3
Week 8.1	June 20 PZT	Central Process Limitations	CH 6
Week 8.2	June 21 SA	Article Presentation (Student)	Article 4
Week 9.1	June 27 PZT	Attention and Memory	CH 7
Week 9.2	June 28 SA	Article Presentation (Student)	Article 5
Week 10.1	July 4 PZT	No Class – Religious Holiday	
Week 10.2	July 5 SA	No Class – Religious Holiday	
Week 11.1	July 11 PZT	Automaticity, Effort and Control	CH 8
Week 11.2	July 12 SA	Article Presentation (Student)	Article 6
Week 12.1	July 18 PZT	Automaticity, Effort and Control cont.	CH 8
Week 12.2	July 19 SA	Article Presentation (Student)	Article 7
Week 13.1	July 25 PZT	No Class – Poster Preparation	
Week 13.2	July 26 SA	Poster Presentations	