

PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN MEMORY AND LEARNING – Code 800153

Academic Year 2016-17

COURSE INFORMATION

Undergraduate Studies: 0812 – Degree in Psychology (Studies Plan 2009-10)

Type: Compulsory

ECTS: 6.0

Module: Compulsory psychological training

Area: Psychological processes

Year: Second

Semester: 1

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Professor Luis Aguado Aguilar

Mail: laguadoa@ucm.es

Office number: 1324-D, building 1, 3d floor

Office hours: 10-14h

SYNOPSIS

COMPETENCIES

General competencies

GC2: Know and understand the basic laws of the different psychological processes.

GC14: Prepare oral and written psychological reports in different areas of activity.

Transversal competencies

TC1: Analysis and synthesis.

TC2: Preparation and defence of properly reasoned arguments.

Specific competencies

SC4: Be able to describe and measure variables (personality, intelligence and other aptitudes, attitudes, etc.) and cognitive, emotional, psychobiological and behavioural processes).

SC5: Be able to identify differences, problems and needs.

Specific: Acquiring the ability to analyze and explain human behavior based on the behavioral, cognitive and neurobiological processes underlying learning and memory. Being able to generalize this knowledge to applied fields in clinical and educational settings.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Regular lectures are complemented with class demonstrations, selected practical workshops and discussion of scientific readings.

ECTs break-down

TEACHING ACTIVITIES	Hours	% of total credits	Attendance
Class sessions	45	30%	100%
Tutorials	5	3.3 %	50%
Students' work (class assignments and time of study)	95	63.3%	0%
Assessment activities	5	3.3%	100%

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The course presents the main theoretical trends and empirical work on learning and memory processes from the behavioral, cognitive and neuroscience approaches with a special emphasis on current research trends and topics.

PRE-REQUISITES

The general requisites for the Psychology degree

OBJECTIVES

1. -To understand the main concepts, empirical results and theories on human learning and memory processes.
2. -To familiarize the student with the methodologies and techniques used in the study of learning and memory at the behavioral and brain levels.
3. -Learning to interpret experimental results and to design and report research to test hypothesis related to learning and memory processes.
4. -To understand the role of learning and memory research in professional practice and familiarize the student with strategies and techniques aimed at applying this knowledge in clinical and educational settings.

TOPICS

Unit 1. Essentials of learning and memory
Unit 2. Long-term memory: Episodic and semantic
Unit 3. Brain substrates of long-term memory
Unit 4. Short-term memory, working memory and executive control
Unit 5. Skill learning and memory: perceptual, motor and cognitive skills
Unit 6. Emotional learning and memory
Unit 7. Memory across the life-span: development, decline and pathology

ASSESSMENT

Evaluation criteria

-To pass the course, the student will have to succeed a Final Exam and complete the assigned practical and review activities. A minimum passing score of 5 on a 1-10 scale is required to pass the course. Moreover, fulfillment of practicals and assignments is compulsory. The final mark will be the sum of the Final Exam result (70%) and the marks obtained in discussion and lab activities (30%).

RESOURCES

Textbooks

- M. Gluck, E. Mercado & C. Myers, 2008. Learning and Memory: From brain to behavior. Worth Publishers

Basic references

-S. Blakemore & U. Frith, 2005. The Learning Brain: Lessons for Education. Blackwell Publishers.
-H. Eichenbaum, 2002. The Cognitive Neuroscience of Memory. Oxford University Press.
-E. Tulving & F. Craik, 2000/2005. The Oxford Handbook of Memory. Oxford University Press.

Supplementary references/ material

-Scientific journals: Trends in Cognitive Sciences

Other resources

-Online Psychology Laboratory: <http://opl.apa.org/Main.aspx>