

**PS-4400-01: Psychology Seminar**  
**MWF 10:10am-11:00am / Hyde 421 / Fall 2011**

Instructor: Dr. Angela Kilb  
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Office: 406 Hyde Hall  
Office Hours: MR: 2:30-4:30pm or by appointment  
Office Phone: 603-535-3242

Required Texts (available on reserve at Lamson Library)

Clancy, S.A. (2005). *Abducted: How People Come to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Loftus, E. & Ketcham, K. (1994). *The Myth of Repressed Memory: False Memories and Allegations of Sexual Abuse*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin.

Schacter, D. (2001). *The Seven Sins of Memory: How the Mind Forgets and Remembers*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Course Description and Objectives

This class is an advanced seminar designed to stimulate thoughtful, academic discussions based on a critical evaluation of scientific evidence. We will read scientific writing, watch films, and listen to invited speakers regarding the topics of suggestibility, repressed memories, sexual abduction, alien abduction, eyewitness testimony, and their impact on the legal system. Each student is expected to make a significant contribution to class discussions and to lead the discussion several times throughout the semester.

**DISCLAIMER:** Some of the material covered in this class is graphic in nature and may be particularly disturbing to some individuals. If this possibility makes you uncomfortable, please contact the instructor privately as soon as possible.

Class Policies:

- To prepare for class, you should (1) read the assigned material *prior* to class, (2) prepare some of your thoughts/questions for the discussion, and (3) arrive on time.
- Please be courteous and attentive when others are speaking. It is important that we all treat each other with mutual respect so that no one is afraid or embarrassed to share their views.
- If you need to miss class on a day in which you are supposed to lead the discussion or give a presentation, you must notify me *prior* to the class meeting time via email or phone in order to avoid a penalty. Depending on the circumstances, you may receive an alternate assignment for partial or full credit. If no notice is given, you will receive a 0.
- If an assignment is late (without my consent), 10% of the grade will be deducted for each day past the deadline.
- If you plan to come to my office hours, please let me know ahead of time whenever possible.

Honor code

Unless otherwise instructed, all of your efforts in this course should represent completely independent work. For further information, see [http://www.plymouth.edu/registrar/policies/academic\\_standing.html](http://www.plymouth.edu/registrar/policies/academic_standing.html).

Students with Documented Disabilities

Plymouth State University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you should immediately contact the PASS Office in Lamson Library (535-2270) to determine whether you are eligible for such accommodations. Academic accommodations will only be considered for students who

have registered with the PASS Office. If you have a Letter of Accommodation for this course from the PASS Office, please provide the instructor with that information privately so that you and the instructor can review those accommodations.

If you are struggling (experiencing difficulties, missing classes, personal or family problems, etc.) there are offices at PSU available to provide academic support as well as career and personal counseling. The PSU Counseling and Human Relations Center (535-2461), located across from Hyde Hall, can direct you to the proper source of help. Confidentiality is assured.

Assignments:

Participation	69	(1 point per contribution; 9 points excused)
Discussion questions	36	(3 points per submission; 3 points excused)
Discussion leader	30	(15 points per topic)
Quizzes	60	(5 points per quiz; lowest quiz dropped)
Project #1	10	
Project #2	10	
Research proposal (rough draft)	20	
Research presentation	25	
Research proposal (final draft)	40	
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Total	300	

Evaluation (further details for individual assignments will be posted to Moodle)

- *Participation* – On most days, you are expected to participate in class discussions by asking questions, offering your own evaluation of the readings, or providing your personal opinions. At the beginning of class, you will be given 3 cards. Each time you contribute to the discussion, a card will be collected. Each collected card is worth 1 point. If you are late, you will start with 2 cards for that class period instead of 3.
- *Discussion questions* – For dates marked with “reaction,” you are expected to post a comment to Moodle by midnight on the evening before class. This comment should include 1 paragraph with your general reaction and at least 1 appropriate discussion question. 10% of your score will be deducted if submitted after midnight; however, no points will be awarded if submitted *after* class.
- *Discussion leader* – 2 times during the semester, you are expected to lead the class in discussion by presenting a peer-reviewed journal article mentioned in the assigned reading and posing at least 3 discussion questions to the class. You will also write 3 short quiz questions for your classmates.
- *Quizzes* – For dates marked “Q” on the syllabus, you are expected to take an open-book (but time limited!) quiz online before coming to class that is based on that day’s posted reading assignment.
- *Project* – Once during the semester, you will be asked to give someone you know a false memory. The details will be planned in advance, and the outcome will be reported in class.
- *Research proposal* – You will write a formal research proposal outlining a plan to further investigate some aspect of false memory. You will write a rough and final draft and will present your proposal to the class during finals week.
- *Extra credit* – Extra credit can be obtained by serving as a participant in research experiments. You may earn 1.5 points (1/2 of a percentage point) for each experiment. There is no limit to the amount of points to be earned, but note that you cannot earn credit for multiple classes from a single experiment.

Course Grades

Final course grades will be assigned based on your total earned points divided by 300. Letter grades will be broken down as follows: 92.5-100% = A; 89.5-92.49% = A-; 86.5-89.49% = B+; 82.5-86.49% = B; 79.5-82.49% = B-; 76.5-79.49% = C+; etc.

**I am discussion leader on \_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_**

**I am presenting recent research on \_\_\_\_\_**

Syllabus is subject to change

P = participation day; reaction = comments/questions on Moodle due before class; Q = quiz to be taken before class;  
 \* = student-led discussion day

Date		Topic	Reading	Assigned
W	31-Aug	No class		
F	2-Sep	Introduction to course		P
M	5-Sep	No class - Labor Day		
W	7-Sep	Misattribution	Schacter: p.88-111	P, reaction #1
F	9-Sep	Discussion		P, Q1
M	12-Sep	Movie: 12 Angry Men		
W	14-Sep	Movie: 12 Angry Men		
F	16-Sep	Discussion		P, Q2
M	19-Sep	Suggestibility	Schacter: p.112-137	P, reaction #2
W	21-Sep	*		P, Q3
F	23-Sep	*		P, Q4
M	26-Sep	Repression	Loftus & Ketcham: p.38-72	P, reaction #3
W	28-Sep	*		P, Q5
F	30-Sep	Digging for memories	Loftus & Ketcham: p.140-175	P, reaction #4
M	3-Oct	*		P, Q6
W	5-Oct	Creating a memory	Loftus & Ketcham: p.73-101	HW#1 assigned
F	7-Oct	<i>Guest speaker - Jeanette Bartha (social activist)</i>		reaction #5
M	10-Oct	No class - Columbus Day		
W	12-Oct	<i>Guest speaker - Celia Gibbs (responsible psychotherapy)</i>		reaction #6
F	14-Oct	A new perspective	Loftus & Ketcham: p.201-226	P, reaction #7
M	17-Oct	Movie: The Crucible		
W	19-Oct	Movie: The Crucible		
F	21-Oct	False confessions	Loftus & Ketcham: p.227-263	P, reaction #8
M	24-Oct	Frontline - The confessions		P
W	26-Oct	Physiology of false memory		P, Q7
F	28-Oct	No class - data collection		
M	31-Oct	Who gets abducted?	Clancy: p.30-53; 106-136	P, reaction #9
W	2-Nov	*		P, Q8
F	4-Nov	Bias	Schacter: p. 138-160	P, reaction #10
M	7-Nov	Consistency	Clancy: p.81-105	P, reaction #11
W	9-Nov	Why believe?	Clancy: p.137-155	P, reaction #12
F	11-Nov	No class - Veteran's Day		
M	14-Nov	No class		
W	16-Nov	<i>Guest speaker - Mark Fischler (legal issues)</i>		reaction #13
F	18-Nov	Project presentations		
M	21-Nov	Project presentations		
W, F	23, 25-Nov	No class - Thanksgiving Break		
M	28-Nov	Recent research		P, Q9
W	30-Nov	Recent research		P, Q10
F	2-Dec	Recent research		P, Q11
M	5-Dec	Recent research		P, Q12
W	7-Dec	Recent research		P, Q13
F	9-Dec	Vices or Virtues?	Schacter: p.184-206	P
F	16-Dec	<b>Research proposal presentations: 8am - 10:30pm / Final draft due by 5pm</b>		