Decision Processes in Memory & Perception

PSYCH 720 (Module 5)
P.J. Bennett

In this module we will discuss why signal detection theory has been a particularly useful framework for thinking about psychological phenomena in general, and for understanding memory and perception in particular. Please read all of the assigned papers before coming to class.

1 Readings

1.1 January 31 [Introduction]

1.2 February 7 [Memory]

1.3 February 14 [Perception]

2 Evaluation

2.1 For those students doing an Oral Presentation

Some students will give 30-minute oral presentations that guide our discussion of the readings. Presenters are expected to be knowledgeable, having read the target article and having some knowledge of the related literature. Although it is critical that the material in the articles be presented, you can assume that everybody in the class will have read the article. Prepare a brief presentation (many students will choose to use PowerPoint slides), then use one or more strategies to get discussion going. For example, you might have questions prepared ahead, offer a counter point to the paper and ask students whether they agree, or solicit questions from the class. Your goal is to facilitate a discussion about the critical results and their interpretation. You are required to meet with the professor prior to your presentation, but after you have prepared a draft of your presentation, to get feedback.

2.2 For those students submitting a written paper

You will submit a draft (worth 30%) and then a final paper (worth 70%) that summarizes and critiques at least two of the empirical readings. First, briefly summarize and then critique the points that you found most relevant from the papers (approx. 400 words). Second, describe an open question that was not answered by the readings (up to 100 words). Third, describe an experiment or study that could help answer the open question you identified (up to 500 words). An NSERC or SSHRC application would be a good model to have in mind for this paper. The paper should be 750 - 1000 words; minimum 4 references beyond the readings listed above. Word limit does not include figures or references. Papers should be typed and double-spaced using a 12 pt font size with 1-inch margins all around. Use APA format throughout. Number all pages after the first page.

2.3 Deadlines

**First Draft:** February 16
**Final Draft:** February 28