

Course overview and Introduction

PSYC 51.09: Human Memory
March 29, 2021

Jeremy Manning
jeremy@dartmouth.edu

What is this course about?

- Understanding and exploring how we (humans) learn and remember
- Creating and evaluating formal psychological theories
- Brain hacks: improving your memory using what we learn

Logistics

- You'll need a copy of the course textbook
- All other materials, including assignments, readings, and lecture recordings, are provided on the course **GitHub page**

Logistics

- Synchronous meetings: D Block
- I'll hold **office hours** by appointment on Tuesdays. Schedule through: context-lab.youcanbook.me (or email me).
- If you post questions on Canvas, I'll answer them (usually within 1-2 business days)
- All course meetings will be **recorded**
- If you have any comments, questions, concerns, etc., **please let me know** (email is best: jeremy@dartmouth.edu)

Organization: general

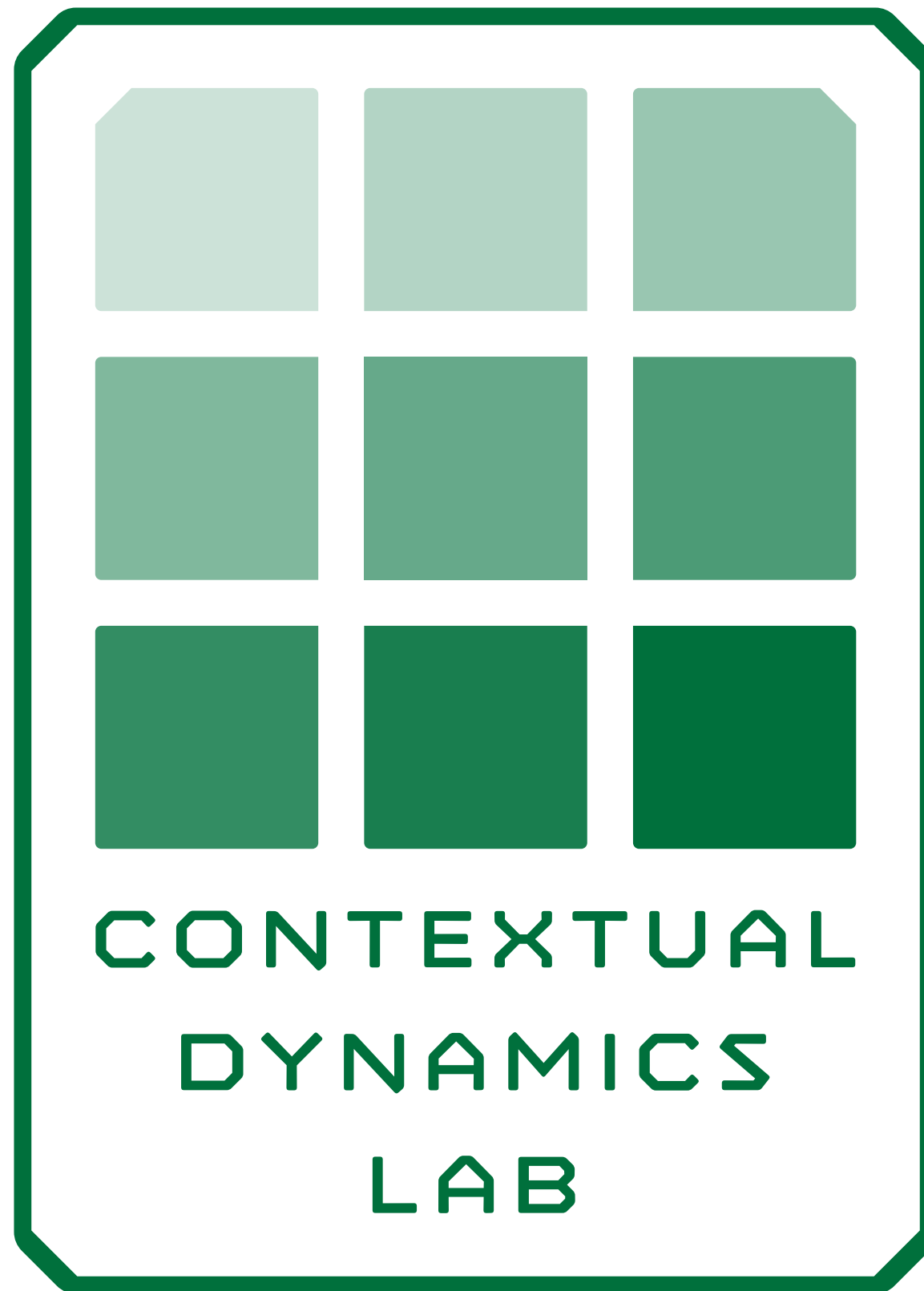
- Each week (approximately) we'll discuss a theory
- Then we'll systematically tear it down
- At the end of the course we'll hopefully understand memory a bit better
- Goal: leave my course with a deep, cutting edge understanding of (a subset of) what is known about human memory

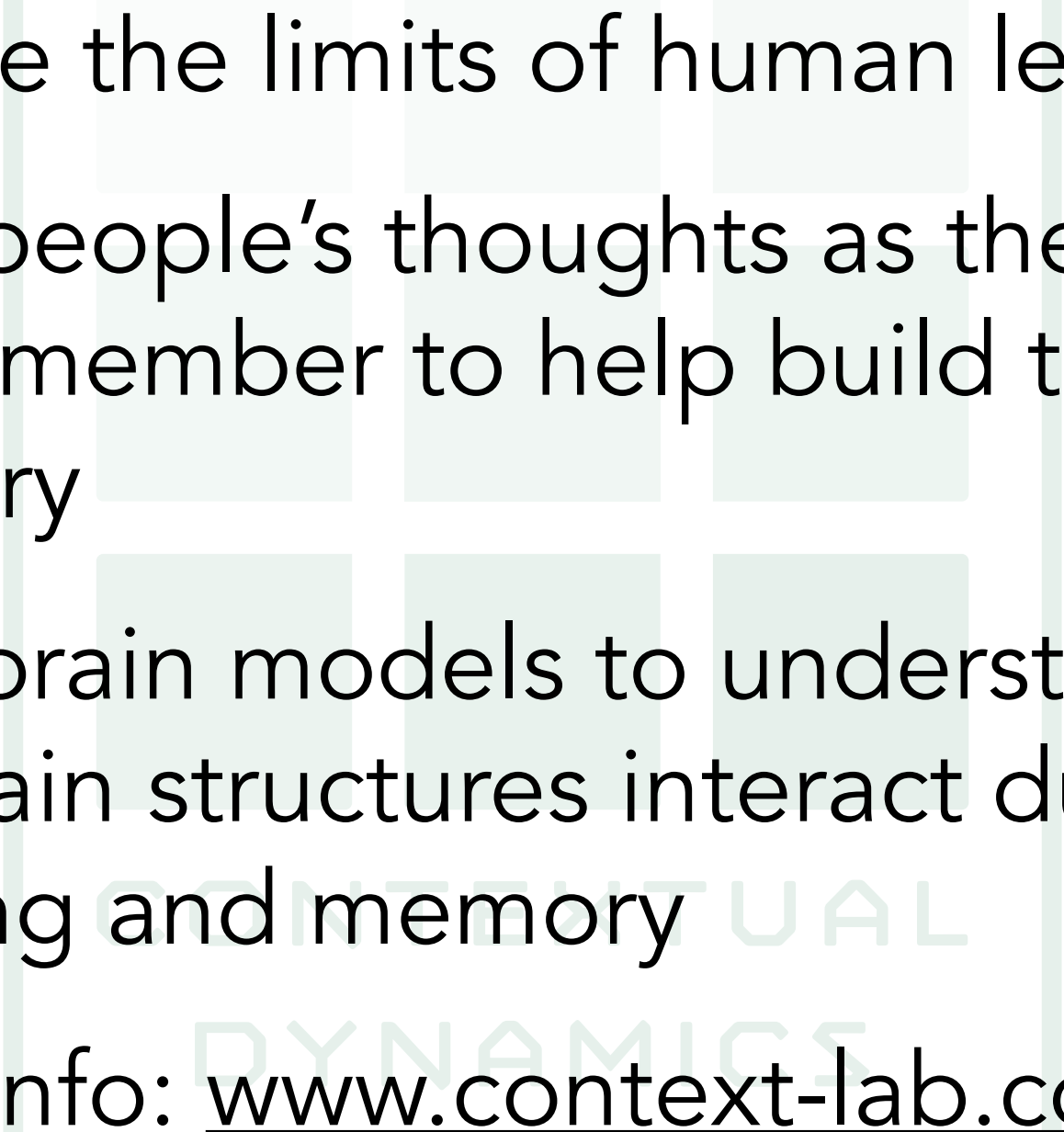
Organization: general

- Our textbook focuses on a very specific set of memory phenomena
- This is useful for developing theories
- In class we'll add in additional examples to help us understand and contextualize stuff in the book
- We'll also bring in some more recent work so that we can reach the cutting edge of the field

Organization: specific

- **Problem sets:** practice working with the concepts we cover (first one: **today!**). These contribute relatively little to your grade, and it doesn't matter if you get the "right" answers; the idea is to give you room to learn and make mistakes.
- **Midterm and Final:** test your conceptual understanding. These form the bulk of your final grade. Both are open book and time "unlimited" (you'll have up to 24 hours to finish each).



- 
- The logo for the Contextual Dynamics Lab is a large, light green, rounded rectangular frame. Inside the frame, the words "CONTEXTUAL", "DYNAMICS", and "LAB" are stacked vertically in a light green, sans-serif font. The logo is positioned in the background of the slide.
- Explore the limits of human learning
 - Track people's thoughts as they learn and remember to help build theories of memory
 - Build brain models to understand how our brain structures interact during learning and memory
 - More info: www.context-lab.com