

B51 Perception and Cognition Course Outline

Contact

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Text

Simpson, Perception lecture notes: www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~wsimpson/courses

Goals & Requirements of the course

The primary goal of this course is that you learn the major facts and theories on how humans gain information about the world through their senses. This process is usually called "perception" for "low-level" phenomena like dark adaptation, and "cognition" for "high-level" phenomena like attention. Another important goal is that you learn *how* we have discovered what we presently know about perception/cognition and the senses. Thus you will have learned principles of experimental design. Through classroom demonstrations you will directly experience the phenomena that experimenters study. In order to achieve these goals, you will need to attend the lectures and study the lecture notes.

Date	Topic
Sept 14	Introduction; Light & eye
Sept 21	Absolute threshold; Dark adaptation
Sept 28	Spatial resolution & summation; Spatial contrast sensitivity
Oct 5	Flicker; Motion
Oct 12	Colour matching; Colour blindness
Oct 19	Binocular vision; Depth
Oct 26	mid-term exam (rooms S-143 & S-128)
Nov 2	Constancies; Perceptual organization
Nov 9	Visual neuropsychology; Attention
Nov 16	Sound & Ear; Hearing
Nov 23	Smell & taste; Skin senses
Nov 30	Development; Learning
Dec 9-21	Final exam

Evaluation

There will be a mid-term and a final exam, both having equal weight. The exams will have multiple choice and short answer items. Those wishing to write a make-up exam must provide documentation.