

# PSYB51: Perception and Cognition

## I) Course information

Course number: PSYB51H3 F

Time: each lecture will be posted a couple hours after the Friday lecture 10-1  
Place: SW309 and webOption

Prerequisites: PSYA01 & PSYA02

## II) Instructor:

Dr. Matthias Niemeier  
1265 Military Trail SW569  
phone: 416-287-7466  
e-mail: niemeier@utsc.utoronto.ca I will respond within two working days.  
Office Hours: Fridays, 1:15 – 2:15 pm.

## III) Teaching Assistants:

Jiaqing Chen  
Ada Le  
Marta Wnuczko

## IV) Blurb

Theory and research on perception and cognition, including visual, auditory and tactile perception, representation, and communication. Topics include cognition and perception in the handicapped and normal perceiver; perceptual illusion, noise, perspective, shadow patterns and motion, possible and impossible scenes, human and computer scene analysis, ambiguity in perception, outline representation. The research is on adults and children, and different species. Demonstrations and exercises form part of the course work.

## V) Textbook

**Required**  
**Title:** Sensation and Perception, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition  
**Authors:** J. Wolfe et al.  
**Publisher:** Sinauer  
**ISBN:** 978-0-87893-953-4

## VI) Web pages

### Course Web Site: intranet page

Here you will find the syllabus, and announcements. Also, I will put the lecture slides on that page.

***Please check on a regular basis for announcements.***

## VII) Evaluation

**30% Mid-term test 1.** Scheduled for **TBA**. Two hours.

**30% Mid-term test 2.** Scheduled for **TBA**. Two hours.

**40% Final Term test.** TBA. Two hours.

Exams will have **multiple-choice and short-answer questions**. The **final exam will be cumulative**. Material on the exams will include lecture material and text readings. Although the topics covered will overlap, different things may be emphasized in class than in the book. Therefore, I recommend listening to the lectures. The text is intended to reinforce and supplement material presented in class. That is, for exams all lecture content is fair game. Things mentioned in class can be asked for in the exams – even if they aren't mentioned in the textbook. Topics mentioned in the textbook but not in class won't be on the exams.

**Missing a mid-term exam:** If you miss one of the two mid-term exams **you will need documentation** for your reason. To find out what reasons are accepted and what form of documentation is required, please refer to the student calendar or talk to me. One example, if you are sick you will need a medical note (see UTSC webpages for the form), and you need to bring a physical copy to my office before the next exam or make-up. The form needs to be completed by a medical doctor on the day of the exam that you are missing plus/minus one day. **A medical note by an acupuncture specialist or a nurse won't be accepted.**

If your documentation is OK, you will be able to make up for the missed exam. If you missed the first mid-term there will be a special make-up portion of the second mid-term. If you missed the second mid-term, there will be an extra make-up exam. In both cases the format of the make-up exam or portion will be short-answer questions only. In addition, the weights of the exams change: 30% for the mid-term that you did write, 15% for the make-up, 55% for the final exam. Finally, if you miss both mid-terms I will arrange for a formal oral exam with me and one of the TAs.

If you miss the final exam, you are asked to petition to write the test through the Registrar's office, usually one term later.

**Difficulties with the course: *I want you to do well in the course!*** Please talk to me if you feel you are having difficulties with the course (or if you have personal issues that might interfere with your performance). The earlier the better. I will try my best and am happy to help. Especially, please come before an exam is to be held. Afterwards is too late. Please note, that as per university policy it is not possible to negotiate better grades.

## VIII) Schedule

Dates refer to the Mondays of the respective week during which the taped lectures are made available online. Lecture videos will be available for two weeks and then taken offline.

Lec	Date of original lecture	Topic	Chapter
1	09-Sep-11	Welcome & Introduction	1
2	16-Sep-11	Optics and the eye	2
3	23-Sep-11	Spatial vision	3
4	30-Oct-11	Objects	4
5	07-Oct-11	Colour & Motion	5 & (7)
	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Mid-term 1</b>	<b>1-5, (7)</b>
6	14-Oct-11	Eye movements, Space and depth	(7) & 6

7	21-Oct-11	Attention	8
8	28-Oct-11	More attention	
9	04-Nov-11	Sound and the ear; Hearing	9, 10
10	11-Nov-11	Music & Speech	11
		<b>Mid-term 2</b>	<b>6, (7), 8-11</b>
11	18-Nov-11	Touch, Multisensory integration	12
12	25-Nov-11	Olfaction and taste, Vestibular system	(13) & (14) & (15)
		<b>Final exam</b>	<b>1-15</b>

### IX) AccessAbility Statement

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).

### X) Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to: IN PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS: Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor. Making up sources or facts. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment. ON TESTS AND EXAMS: Using or possessing unauthorized aids. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test. Misrepresenting your identity. IN ACADEMIC WORK: Falsifying institutional documents or grades. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html>).

### XI) webOption

Each WebOption lecture is assigned a unique web address when the first lecture is posted. The location of the WebOption videos will be posted on the Intranet site of the course as soon as the first lecture is available online.

Unlike previous years, students will be required to login using their UTSC/UTORid in order to access WebOption lecture videos.

Lectures will be available throughout the term starting from the day on which they are taped. My recommendation is to watch two lectures per week, one lecture depending on which week of the term you are in plus one lecture for review (except during the first week only 1 lecture will be

available). At the very least however, you should watch no less than one lecture per week. Spreading lectures and reading materials across the term will help remember the content better.

**XII) Course Policies**

For other academic regulations please also refer to the UTSC calendar.