

# PSYB51: Perception and Cognition

## I) Course information

Course number: PSYB51H3 F

Prerequisites: PSYA01 & PSYA02

## II) Instructor:

Dr. Matthias Niemeier

Rm SW569, 1265 Military Trail SW569

phone: 416-287-7466

e-mail: niemeier@utsc.utoronto.ca I will respond within two working days.

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1 – 2 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 to submit documentation for your reason within 5 workdays**. 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. The form needs to be completed by a medical doctor **on the day of the exam** that you are missing. **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. Make-up exams will be held ~ 1 week after that respective mid-term. The make-up exams will be short answer questions only. If you miss one make-up exam, the other mid-term and the final will be re-weighted, 43% and 57%, respectively. If you miss both make-up exams I will arrange for a formal oral exam with me and one of the TAs. For any scheduled exam that you miss please be sure to provide me with documentation as mentioned above. Finally, if you miss the final exam, you are asked to petition to write the test through the Registrar's office, usually one term later. The deferred final exam will be short answer questions only.

**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. That includes requests for extra course work. There are 3 exams for this course for everyone. I can't offer additional forms of evaluation to a few people without offering them to/requiring them from everyone.

### VIII) Schedule

Lec	Topic	Chapter
1	Welcome & Introduction	1
2	Optics and the eye	2
3	Spatial vision	3
4	Objects	4
5	Colour & Motion	5 & (7)
	<b>Mid-term 1</b>	<b>1-5, (7)</b>
6	Eye movements, Space and depth	(7) & 6
7	Attention	8
8	More attention	
9	Sound and the ear; Hearing	9, 10
10	Music & Speech	11

	<b>Mid-term 2</b>	<b>6, (7), 8-11</b>
11	Touch, Multisensory integration	12
12	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. 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. 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.