

PSYB51: Perception and Cognition

I) Course information

Course number: PSYB51H3 F

Time: lectures will be posted on webOption throughout the term

Prerequisites: PSYA01 & PSYA02 (cannot be waived)

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

Adam Frost

Ada Le

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, 3rd edition

Authors: J. Wolfe et al.

Publisher: Sinauer

ISBN: 978-0-87893-972-7

VI) Web pages

Course Web Site: BlackBoard

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.

You are required to write all exams. Exams will have **multiple-choice and short-answer questions**. The MCQs are meant to test your knowledge of the material. On top of that, short answer questions included because they are much better at measuring conceptual understanding of the material above and beyond memorizing and recognizing facts. Furthermore, short-answer questions will help you work on your written communication skills. I will ask similar practice questions in class for you to get an intuition of what these questions will be about and whether you are able to answer them. In addition, I highly recommend to form study groups and test one another with similar questions. I cannot stress enough how helpful it is to meet with other students and practice for exams! Very often I have heard that students felt they 'kind of' knew a topic/concept or got the gist of it but when they were asked to explain they couldn't do it. Or they feel they implied the correct answer but it wasn't clear to me or our TAs. If problems with SAQs show up during a study group meeting, great: you know what needs a bit more work, a visit of my office hours might be good too; let's work together to make sure you are doing well on the exams!

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 or other readings. Therefore, I recommend reading all the materials and I do urge you to watch all lectures. The **final exam will be cumulative in terms of the MCQs and will have some bias for later lectures for the SAQs**. 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 as well as studying the textbook.

Missing one mid-term exam: Under exceptional circumstances you may miss the first or the second mid-term exam. In that case, I will re-weight your other mid-term and your final exam (43% and 57%, respectively). However, **I will re-weight only if you provide - within 1 week - valid documentation** for your valid reason to miss the mid-term. 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). The form needs to be **completed by a medical doctor on the day of the exam** that you are missing plus/minus one day. Likewise, for psychological reasons you will need an M.D., a clinical psychologist or counsellor etc. **A medical note by an acupuncture specialist or a nurse won't be accepted.**

Make-up mid-terms. Because of the tight time line of the make-ups (~1 week after the respective mid-term), makeups may differ in format and contain short answer questions only.

Missing two mid-term exams: Though rare, it is not impossible that students miss larger portions of the course including both mid-terms, e.g. due to illness. In that case, you need to provide documentation and **also you need to contact me**. We'll set up an appointment to discuss how I can help you. There will be a make-up exam covering material from the two mid-terms.

Missing mid-terms due to absence from Toronto. If you signed up for the course you are required to participate in all term-tests/exams. It's summer but despite some temptation, vacations and other reasons for absence from Toronto are not eligible for writing make-up exams. Also, the dates of the exams are unknown to me at the

beginning of the term. Information about this will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Missing the final exam: 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 format of the final exam might differ from the original final.

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 (lectures taped in fall 2012)

Lec	Original Date of lecture (all available online now)	Topic	Chapter
1	14-Sep-12	Welcome & Introduction	1
2	21-Sep-12	Optics and the eye	2
3	28-Sep-12	Spatial vision	3
4	05-Oct-12	Objects	4
	TBA	Mid-term 1	1-4
5	12-Oct-12	Colour & Motion	5 & (8)
6	19-Oct-12	Eye movements, Space and depth	(8) & 6
7	26-Oct-12	Attention	7
8	02-Nov-12	More attention	
	TBA	Mid-term 2	5-8
9	09-Nov-12	Sound and the ear; Hearing	9, 10
10	16-Nov-12	Music & Speech	11
11	23-Nov-12	Touch, Multisensory integration	13
12	30-Nov-12	Olfaction and taste, Vestibular system	(14) & (15) & (12)
	TBA	Final exam	1-15

Pdf's of lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard. I will not provide the ppt files for copyright reasons. But you can take notes on pdf's, too.

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.

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.