

Introduction to Perception

I) Course information

Course code: PSYB51H3

Online, taped lectures

Prerequisites: PSYA01 & PSYA02 (cannot be waived; sorry, no exceptions)

II) Blurb & Learning Outcomes

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 form part of the course work.

By the end of this course, you will have ...

- developed a foundational understanding of the concepts of sensation and perception.
- attained an ability to identify concepts and use them as a scaffold of knowledge
- practiced your ability to effectively communicate your knowledge in written form
- improved your ability to successfully collaborate with peers in study groups

III) Course staff:

Instructor:

Dr. Matthias Niemeier

Teaching assistants:

Nina Lee

Tyler Roberts

Moaz Shoura

Greer Gillies

Kristina Knox

IV) Textbook (required)

Title: Sensation and Perception, 4th edition or later

Authors: J. Wolfe et al.

Publisher: Oxford University Press, Series: Sinauer

V) Web page

Course Web Site: Quercus

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.

VI) Contact:

E-mail: psyb51.utsc@utoronto.ca

Please direct emails to the dedicated course address. We will go through all emails and answer standard course questions or quick questions about content. At times we might refer you to the syllabus or to the announcements on BB. At other times we might ask to have longer questions (>5 min) or lists of questions answered during office hours.

Office hours

tba

VII) Evaluation

4% 8 top quizzes (out of 12 quizzes total)

23% Mid-term test 1. Scheduled for **TBA**. 100 min.

23% Mid-term test 2. Scheduled for **TBA**. 100 min.

50% Final exam. TBA. Two hours.

You are required to write the mid-terms as well as the final exam.

Quizzes are meant to encourage you to listen to lectures and read textbook chapters on a weekly basis. Given this objective, it follows that there is no opportunity to make up for missed quizzes and also that the material tested in the quizzes comes from lecture and readings for the respective week.

VIII) How to do well in the course

PSYB51 is no bird course. There are many details that you need. Therefore you need to spread your studying across the entire term. Waiting with your preparations for the tests to come up is not a good strategy at all. On the other hand, a lot of things in PSYB51 are very logical and it is very well possible to get an A or even A+ in the course. Indeed you don't need to be Einstein to get 100% in the course. Here is what you should do to do well.

Read the textbook. Attend/watch all lectures. Take notes.

Know what material is expected: Material on the exams will include lecture materials and text readings. Although the topics covered will overlap, different things may be emphasized in class than in the book or other readings. Exam questions will only refer to concepts discussed in class but you need the textbook material to better understand and enrich the lecture material. So, make sure to read all the required textbook materials and, of course, you need to go to / watch all lectures.

Look out for concepts: Concepts are the scaffold of knowledge. Details are important too, especially in a course like PSYB51. But you need a structure to make sense of all the details.

Start studying now: Avoid cramming. If you feel you have no time to study during week 1, you won't find time later. Note that postponing studying and pulling a couple all-nighters before an exam is a poor strategy.

Read the textbook chapters before the respective lecture so that it's easier to understand the lectures and so that your mind can form a cognitive structure of what to expect. If you take the online course don't let a week pass without watching one or more lectures.

Learn in teams: I highly recommend forming **study groups** and test and quiz one another with questions. Common excuses:

- "I don't know anybody in the course." But there is Facebook etc. to get in touch, right?
- "I have no time." See my earlier comment regarding time.
- "I'm smarter than the others. I won't get anything out of being a pro bono tutor." Sure. There are a lot of smart cookies around at UTSC. But this isn't a pro bono thing; tutors learn more than anybody else.
- "I'm not as smart as the others." Well, first off: I don't think that's true, everyone has their moment to shine. Secondly, make sure to be prepared for your meetings. Thirdly, read what I just said about tutors.

It is very helpful to meet with others and practice in such a way for exams especially because these are good simulations of writing SAQs during exams.

Prepare "cheat sheets." Just to be clear: using cheat sheets during tests/exams is an academic offence. But creating them is a helpful practice to learn. Here's how you do it: you take your lecture notes and copy the important things onto a few pages (cheat sheets need to be small of course). Well, it's likely that you end up with something that is still too large. So now you take your over-sized cheat sheets and condense the material further, and perhaps you do that several times. In the end you will have rehearsed the course material several times but more importantly: you will have summarized the material. Summarizing requires sound conceptual understanding of the material and therefore helps learning.

Make use of office hours: If you have questions about the course or its content, or if there are other ways in which you feel the TAs and I can help you, do visit us during office hours. In the past few years I have seen and heard office hour attendance drop, probably for various reasons. But I get the sense that one reason might be people don't want to bother instructors or are worried that they look bad when they ask something. Don't think like that! Bring your study group if you like. Office hours are a resource for you guys.

IX) Schedule

Lec	Topic	Readings (chapters)	Lectures tested on MCQs	Lectures tested on SAQs
1	Welcome & Introduction	1		
2	Optics and the eye	2		
3	Spatial vision	3		
4	Objects	4		
	Mid-term test 1		1-4	1-4
5	Colour & Motion	5 & 8 in part (p. 236-250)		
6	Eye movements, Space and depth	8 (p. 250-258) & 6		
	Reading week			
7	Attention	7		
8	More attention	(no chapter)		
	Mid-term test 2		5-8	5-8
9	Sound and the ear; Hearing	9, 10		
10	Music & Speech	11		
11	Touch, Vestibular system	13, (12)		
12	Olfaction and taste, Multisensory integration	(14) & (15) info about required pages will be posted on BB		
	Final exam		1-12	9-12

Tests and exams will be scheduled by the administration. I will post information about the dates as soon as I receive it. 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.

X) 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.

XI) 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>).

XII) Psychology Department Missed Term Work Policy, WINTER 2021

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- Missed Final Exams are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>

Accommodations for Illness or Emergency:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, please complete the following **two-step** process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and email it to Keely Hicks at keely.hicks@utoronto.ca,

and

2. **Declare your absence** on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

Deadline: You must complete the above steps **within 3 business days** of the missed work.

Note: For this semester, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (ex. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.

Accommodations for Academic Conflicts:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (i.e. two quizzes or tests scheduled at the same time), please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing "Other" as your reason for missed work and explaining the conflict in the space provided.

2. Take screenshots of your course homepages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Note: Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Accommodations may only be possible in the case of quizzes and tests that are both scheduled during the same discrete period. Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts.

Note: Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who choose to register in two synchronous courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules may not necessarily be accommodated.

Accommodations for Religious Conflicts:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing "Other" as your reason for missed work and noting "Religious conflict" in the space provided.
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Accommodations for Time Zone Conflicts:

If you are physically in a different time zone and a quiz or midterm is scheduled outside of 7:00am to midnight in your local time, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Time Zone Conflict Form** (<https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>), and
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible, if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Accommodations for Students Registered with AccessAbility Services:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days):
 1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).
 2. Email the form and your **Accommodation Letter** to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that):
 1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

After submitting your documentation:

Within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

Completion of this form does not guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form and declare your extended absence on ACORN.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents within the three business day window, **you must email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) within the three business day window** to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be

able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under **exceptional circumstances**.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this Missed Term Work policy, please contact Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well before** the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and inquire about procedures.

XIII) For Your Health

The Health and Wellness Centre (SL270, 416-287-7065) provides diagnostic, treatment and referral services for all illnesses ranging from the medical to psychological to health promotion. The professional staff of physicians, nurses and counselors provides personal advice and assistance with family issues, eating disorders, depression, stress, drug and alcohol abuse, relationship issues, a positive space for gender/sexuality issues, and more.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/wellness>