

## **1069 PSYCH 306: Perception**

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Location        AL 124  
Times            MWF 930-1020

### **Required Text**

Perception, Fifth Edition. Randolph Blake & Robert Sekuler. McGraw-Hill. 2006.

### **Course Description**

What we perceive through our senses makes up much of our conscious experience. This course examines how visual and auditory perception arise and includes topics such as how we become aware of colour, form, space, brightness, loudness, and pitch, and how this information guides behaviour. Other senses may be covered.

### **Course Objectives**

On successful completion of this course, you will have a basic understanding of the ways in which the brain makes sense of the raw data of the external world in order to act on those data to produce adaptive behaviour.

### **Tentative Schedule**

Week 1 - Introduction and The Eye (chapters 1, 2)  
Week 2 - The retina (chapter 3)  
Week 3 - The visual system (chapter 4)  
Week 4 - Spatial vision and form (chapter 5)  
Week 5 - Object perception (chapter 6)  
Week 6 - Seeing in colour(chapter 7)  
Week 7 - Seeing in depth (chapter 8)  
Week 8 - Action and motion (chapter 9)  
Week 9 - The ear (chapter 10)  
Week 10 - Hearing and listening (chapter 11)  
Week 11 - Speech and music perception (chapter 12)  
Week 12 - Touch (chapter 13)  
Week 13 - The chemical senses (chapters 14, 15).

## **Course Requirements**

**1. online multiple choice quizzes (10%).** At the conclusion of each chapter, you will have the opportunity to complete a brief multiple choice quiz that tests your understanding of the content of that chapter. Completing a quiz earns 0.5 points. Completing all 15 quizzes earns a 2.5% bonus.

**2. Midterm tests (October 11, November 13) 20+20%)** At the approximate 1/3 and 2/3 point in the term, you will complete a 50 minute in-class test based on the content of both lectures and textbook readings. The format of each test will consist of both multiple choice and short written answers. Each test will be worth 20 points.

**3. Graphic or sonic essay (10%, Due November 20).** You should prepare a short (3-5 page) presentation on some aspect of perception that interests you. This essay should be submitted electronically in a format that can be placed online for the pleasure of your classmates. You might choose to present a short explanation of an interesting visual (or auditory illusion), a description of an application of perceptual science to a real world problem, or the implications of some principle of perception to a work of art that interests you. There are many possibilities. Your essay will be more interesting if it includes either graphic material (pictures or animations) or sound files. Please remember, when using such files, that all academic integrity guidelines apply (when in doubt, cite!).

**4. Final exam (40%).** There will be a final exam held during the regular exam period in December. The format of the exam will be multiple choice and short written answer. The exam will cover the entire course, with some emphasis on content from the last 1/3 of the course.

## **Grading Policy**

In order to obtain credit for online quizzes, they must be completed during the prescribed time periods (TBA). In order to obtain the bonus credit for online quizzes, all quizzes must have been completed during prescribed time periods. If a student misses a test or exam because of illness or bereavement, a makeup will be provided only if proper documentation (note from doctor or copy of death certificate) is provided. The essay is due by November 20 at the latest, but may be submitted at any time and will be posted to the course site as soon as possible. Late essay submissions will be assessed a penalty of 1 point per day, including weekends.

## **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Some material on tests and exams will be taken from material presented in class which may not be included in the textbook.

## **Academic Integrity**

Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>).

If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

## Teaching Assistants

Your teaching assistants for the course are Stacey Danckert (<mailto:sdancker@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca>) and Chris Striemer (<mailto:cstriem@watarts.uwaterloo.ca>). They will be responsible for some of the grading in the course, and they will also be available for private and/or group consultation at their office hours (to be announced shortly)