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1079 Psychology 306: Perception

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Location AL 208
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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 by the deadlines earns another 2.5%.

2. Midterm tests (October 10, November 9 25+25%) 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 25 points.

3. 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.

Participant bonus points (4%). Students in this class will have the opportunity to earn bonus points through participation in experiments. More details will be available at the first class. Please read the document in the "Introduction" folder for instructions.

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 extra 2.5% 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.

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 Brian Garrison (bgarriso@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca) and Amanda Clark (aclark@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)

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