

1079 Psychology 306: Perception

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Location AL 208
Times MWF 930-1020
Start Date September 9, 2008

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 (15%). 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 1 point.

2. Midterm tests (October 1, October 29 30 + 30) 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 30 points.

3. Final take-home test (25%). The take-home test will consist of a written assignment based on material from the entire course, but with an emphasis on the last 1/3 of the course. The questions will be made available on the course website on November 1, and the due date will be December 1.

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 credit for the take-home test, it must be submitted via ACE drop box by December 1 at midnight. If a student misses a test 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 will be taken from material presented in class which may not be included in the textbook.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Avoiding Academic Offences: http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Miscellaneous

Teaching Assistants

Your teaching assistants for the course are Punya Singh(p9singh@uwaterloo.ca) and Deltcho Valtchanov (dvaltcha@gmail.com). 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)