PSYC 2220. Sensation and perception I

Department of Psychology
York University

Summer term S1, 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-4:00

• Course syllabus

General description: How do we use light and sound to perceive our immediate environment? We will approach this topic both from a biological point of view, discussing the sensory systems and brain areas that underlie our perceptual abilities, and also from a computational point of view, investigating how we use the information that reaches our eyes and ears. Topics include: visual perception of shape, colour, depth, and motion; visual object recognition; auditory perception of pitch, loudness, and location; music and speech.

Textbook: Wolfe et al. (2008), Sensation and perception, second edition. This textbook will be available at the York University Bookstore. If you buy a used copy elsewhere, be sure to get the second edition. There are also electronic versions of this book, which you can buy by following the eBook links on the textbook webpage. Note that although the electronic books are cheaper, they expire after 180 days.

Requirements: quizzes (10%), two midterm tests (25% each), final exam (40%)

Prerequisite: PSYC 1010 with a minimum grade of C
PSYC 2220 – Sensation and perception I
Summer 2011

Instructor: Richard Murray      rfm@yorku.ca
Teaching assistant: James Watson-Gaze  jamwat@yorku.ca
Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Curtis Lecture Hall E
Office hours: Monday, 4:00 - 5:00 pm, BSB 405
Textbook: Sensation and perception, second edition (Wolfe et al., 2009)
Website: www.yorku.ca/rfm/psyc2220
Evaluation: eleven quizzes (10%), two midterm tests (25% each), final exam (40%)
Prerequisite: PSYC 1010 6.0, with a minimum grade of C

Midterm test and final exam. The midterm tests and the final exam will cover the lectures and the assigned readings. The first midterm will cover lectures 1-4, the second midterm will cover lectures 5-8, and the final exam will cover the entire course.

Daily quizzes. To encourage you to read the assigned sections of the textbook before the lectures, there will be a short quiz at the beginning of each class. The quizzes will cover the textbook readings assigned for the class. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Meeting with the teaching assistant. You can meet with the teaching assistant during the weekly office hours. If you cannot meet during the regular office hours, contact the teaching assistant to make alternate arrangements.

Policy on missed tests and quizzes. There will be no makeup tests or quizzes. If you provide suitable documentation for missing a test or quiz, you will have the weight of the missed test added to the weight of the final exam, and the weight of the missed quiz distributed amongst the remaining quizzes. Tests and quizzes missed without adequate documentation will be assigned a mark of zero.

Plagiarism. Evaluation in this course is completely based on in-class tests and quizzes, so questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism should not be difficult. Consult the Department of Psychology’s undergraduate calendar for departmental policy on plagiarism.

Drop date. The last date to drop this course without receiving a grade is May 27, 2011.
### LECTURE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-May</td>
<td>optics and the eye</td>
<td>chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4-May</td>
<td>spatial vision</td>
<td>chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9-May</td>
<td>motion</td>
<td>chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11-May</td>
<td>colour</td>
<td>chapter 5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>16-May</td>
<td>depth perception</td>
<td>chapter 6</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>18-May</td>
<td>objects; term test 1</td>
<td>chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23-May</td>
<td>Victoria Day; no lecture</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>25-May</td>
<td>psychophysics</td>
<td>chapter 1, pp. 10-18</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>30-May</td>
<td>the ear</td>
<td>chapter 9</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>1-Jun</td>
<td>hearing</td>
<td>chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>6-Jun</td>
<td>attention; term test 2</td>
<td>chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>8-Jun</td>
<td>music and speech</td>
<td>chapter 11</td>
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### LETTER GRADES

Final course marks will be converted to letter grades as follows.

- 90 - 100 A+
- 80 - 89.99 A
- 75 - 79.99 B+
- 70 - 74.99 B
- 65 - 69.99 C+
- 60 - 64.99 C
- 55 - 59.99 D+
- 50 - 54.99 D
- 45 - 49.99 E
- 0 - 44.99 F