

# Sensation & Perception I 2220A - Online

## INSTRUCTOR

Prof. Laurie Wilcox  
Rm. Lassonde Building, B0003H  
email: [lwilcox@yorku.ca](mailto:lwilcox@yorku.ca)  
tel: 66494

Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Webpage:** The course is hosted on the York Moodle site  
<https://moodle.yorku.ca>

All course information will be posted on the above website. In the event of ANY disruption in the teaching schedule you are to go to this site for instruction and information.

**Course Prerequisites:** PSYC 1010 6.0 with a minimum grade of C.

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

**Last name A to J**

Brittney Hartle      Office hours by appointment      [brit1317@yorku.ca](mailto:brit1317@yorku.ca)

**Last name K to Z**

Matthew Cutone      Office hours by appointment      [cutonem@yorku.ca](mailto:cutonem@yorku.ca)

## TEXTBOOK

B. Goldstein Sensation and Perception 9<sup>th</sup> edition, ISBN: 0495601494

Please note that we are using the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Goldstein Textbook. This is a required text, and other editions will not be acceptable. There is an electronic version **for sale** at CourseSmart if you cannot or do not want to buy a hard copy:  
<http://www.coursesmart.com/sensation-and-perception-9th-edition/goldstein/dp/9781133958499>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of perception involves a complex combination of physiology, psychophysics, and cognition. In this course we will explore the major sensory systems focussing primarily on vision and hearing, using these topics as a framework.

Throughout the course, issues will be explored from an experimental perspective. Therefore, in some lectures we will cover the fundamental experimental paradigms used to study perception (psychophysics). Over the course of the term we will discuss different sensory systems in turn; in each instance time will be spent describing the stimulus (light, sound), the physiology of the receptors and subsequent cortical areas that are activated.

Very often what we perceive results not only from the information gathered by our sensory systems, but from our expectations and prior knowledge about the world we inhabit. As a result we will also study cognitive influences on perception and how they are identified and assessed.

*One of the primary goals of this course is to introduce you to many of the fascinating aspects of how we perceive the world around us. At the conclusion of this course you should appreciate how your sensory perceptions are 'all in your head'.*

*A related, and important, aim is to provide a deeper understanding of how scientific methods are used to study perceptual processes. You will eventually be able to think through a perceptual experiment, understand the methodology used, and why.*

### EVALUATION

2 In-class tests:	55%	(multiple choice & short answer - 27.5% each)
Final exam:	40%	(multiple choice & short answer)
Participation	5%	(Discussion Posting)

The final exam will be held during the regular exam schedule and will be comprehensive.

Instructions for the participation component will be posted on the course website.

The tests will be based on the text and all lectures. Web-based materials will be included if mentioned in the lectures.

## TEST DATES

Midterm 1 TBD Chapters 1-6

Midterm 2 TBD Chapters 7-11

Final Exam During the regular exam schedule (no exceptions for vacation plans) and will be comprehensive (Chapters 1-11).

The final exam will be held during the regular exam schedule and will be comprehensive. The tests will be based on the text, and all lectures, films or demos.

Please refer to the York University Religious Observance website for information regarding observed holidays and procedures:

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs> and the

Important Dates site: <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw15.htm>

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date Lecture is available	Chapter	Content
September 10	1	Intro
	2	Perception
	3	Receptors
	4	Cortical processing
	5	Perceiving Objects
	6	Visual Attention
October 18 <sup>th</sup> *To be Confirmed*	Midterm 1	
	7	Action
	8	Motion
	9	Colour
	10	Depth & Size
	11	Sound & Audition
November 22 <sup>nd</sup> *To be Confirmed *	Midterm 2	

**THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD DURING THE REGULAR EXAM SCHEDULE AND WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE**

## MISSED EXAMS

According to University Policy, the only legitimate excuse for missing an exam is because of medical problems or exceptional circumstances. **If you cannot write an exam you must contact a TA BEFORE the start of the test.** If you do not speak to a person directly you must email them - if you don't receive a response, email again. If you are unable to contact someone during this 24 hour period, documentation

accounting for the delay must be provided. Documentation verifying the reason for the missed exam (see below) must be provided either prior to or at the time of the make-up. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of 0 on the exam.

**If you miss the make-up test for a midterm (with a valid reason and evidence of hardship), a second make-up will not be set.**

**All students must write the Final exam and at least one of the midterms. If these conditions are not met by the end of the term you must apply for deferred standing to complete the course in the following term.**

A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counsellor. The Attending Physician's Statement must include (i) the full name, mailing address and telephone number of the Physicians, (ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and (iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have seriously affected your ability to study and perform over the period in question.

B. Exams missed on the ground of exception non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc. Receipts from emergency travel must indicate destination, departure and return dates.

It is your responsibility to check with myself or the TA to make sure we know you have a legitimate reason to have missed a midterm. A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an exam in that course at that time).