

HH/PSYC 2220 3.0 B

Sensation and Perception I

Fall 2020

••• There is a lot of required information in every course syllabus. Here most of the information that is specific to this course is on the first three pages, and more general information is on later pages. •••

Instructor:	Richard Murray	psyc2220@gmail.com
Teaching assistants:	Jay Patel	jay96@my.yorku.ca
	Khushbu Patel	khushbup@my.yorku.ca
Lectures:	Thursdays, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm; online via Zoom	
Office hours:	Mondays, 10:00 - 10:30 am Tuesdays, 4:00 - 4:30 pm Wednesdays, 11:00 - 11:30 am Fridays, 1:00 - 1:30 pm	
Required textbook:	Sensation and perception, fifth edition (Wolfe et al., 2018)	
Website:	eclass.yorku.ca	
Evaluation:	nine quizzes (10%), two tests (25% each), final exam (40%)	
Prerequisite:	PSYC 1010 6.0, with a minimum grade of C	
Exclusion:	GL/PSYC 3690 3.0	

(The prerequisite and exclusion are strictly enforced.)

Online lectures. Lectures will be given live and online via Zoom at the scheduled lecture times. They will also be recorded and posted for later viewing. Attendance at the lectures is highly encouraged, as it will provide an opportunity to ask questions and hear others' questions and comments. Weekly quizzes and the two term tests will also be held online during the scheduled lecture times.

Term tests and exam. The tests and exam will cover the lectures and the assigned readings. The first midterm test will cover weeks 1-4, the second midterm test will cover weeks 6-9, and the final exam will cover the entire course.

Weekly quizzes. To encourage you to do the assigned readings before each lecture, there will be a short online quiz at the beginning of each class, starting in week two, except in weeks where we have a test. Each quiz will cover the textbook readings assigned for the corresponding lecture.

Meeting with the teaching assistants. You can meet with the teaching assistants online during the office hours. If you cannot meet during the regular office hours, contact the teaching assistants to arrange an alternate time.

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.

Course schedule

		Topic	Readings
1	10-Sep	light and the eye	pp. 34-41
2	17-Sep	light and the eye	pp. 41-57
3	24-Sep	spatial vision	pp. 60-65, 67-73
4	1-Oct	retinostriate pathway	pp. 73-82, 85-91
5	8-Oct	term test 1	
	15-Oct	<i>fall reading week; no lecture</i>	
6	22-Oct	object perception	pp. 98-123
7	29-Oct	colour vision	pp. 136-148
8	5-Nov	colour vision	pp. 148-155, 159-167
9	12-Nov	depth perception	pp. 178-183, 187-204
10	19-Nov	term test 2	
11	26-Nov	sound and the ear	pp. 282-300
12	3-Dec	hearing	pp. 314-335

See page 3 of this syllabus for further details on the assigned readings.

The final exam will be scheduled during the official exam period in December. We will announce the date when it becomes available.

Detailed readings

September 10. Light and the eye

- read pp. 34-41, up to and including the section "The retina"

September 17. Light and the eye

- read pp. 41-57
- skip the box on pp. 48-49 ("When good retina goes bad")

September 24. Spatial vision

- read pp. 60-65, up to but not including "A visit to the eye doctor"
- read pp. 67-73, from "Acuity for low-contrast stripes", up to but not including "The striate cortex"

October 1. The retinostriate pathway

- read pp. 73-82, up to but not including "Columns and hypercolumns"
- read pp. 85-91, starting from "Selective adaptation: the psychologist's electrode"

October 22. Object perception

- read pp. 98-123
- skip the boxes on pp. 102-103 ("Scientists at work") and p. 123 ("Material perception")

October 29. Colour vision (part one)

- read pp. 136-148, up to but not including "Step 3: color appearance"

November 5. Colour vision (part two)

- read pp. 148-155, up to but not including "Individual differences in color perception"
- read pp. 159-167, from "From the color of lights to a world of color", up to but not including "What is color vision good for?"
- skip the box on pp. 149-150 ("Picking colors")

November 12. Depth perception

- read pp. 178-183, from "Monocular cues to three-dimensional space", up to but not including "Aerial perspective"
- read pp. 187-204, from "Triangulation cues to three-dimensional space", up to but not including "Combining depth cues"
- skip the box on pp. 196-197 ("Recovering stereo vision")

November 26. Sound and the ear

- read pp. 282-300, up to but not including "Auditory brain structures"

November 12. Hearing

- read pp. 314-335
- skip the box on pp. 333-334 ("Auditory color constancy")

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course description

A course in problems, experimental methods and research findings in sensation and perception. Vision and hearing are covered in some detail, including discussion of the structure and function of the eye and ear, and cortical areas responsible for processing visual and auditory information.

Program learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate broad knowledge of biological determinants of sensation and perception
- Describe and evaluate current theory and research in sensation and perception
- Understand and interpret principles of sensation and perception in everyday life
- Define causes of human sensation and perception from different perspectives

Grading as per Senate policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.). For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar.

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

Electronic device policy

This course will be delivered in an online format and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. It is expected that you will complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination unless the tests/exams are open-book.

Add/drop deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2020-21 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept 22.	Sept 22.	Jan. 25
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 6	Oct. 27	Feb. 8
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 6	Feb. 5	March 12
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 7- Dec. 8	Feb. 6 – April 12	March 13- April 12

Add and drop deadline information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are different, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system. After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Academic integrity for students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#). It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and Academic Honesty Quiz.

Test banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as "Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation" (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or "encouraging, enabling or causing others" (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Academic accommodation for students with disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with *Student Accessibility Services (SAS)* to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate policy on academic accommodation for students with disabilities:

Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

Course materials copyright information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 2220 course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. For further information see the [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).