

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4260 6.0: SEMINAR IN SENSATION AND PERCEPTION
Thursdays/11:30am/ Online via Zoom
Winter/2020-21

This course will be delivered both synchronously and asynchronously. Class lectures and discussion will take place over zoom and will be recorded during class time. Activities and assignments will be online.

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Professor Jennifer Steeves

Office Hours: by appointment for mutual convenience, please email me

Email: steeves@yorku.ca

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 (Statistical Methods I) or HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II)
- HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 (Introduction to Research Methods) or substitutes
- HH/PSYC 2220 3.00 (Sensation and Perception I)
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: [eClass](#)

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site. The site will be your central access point for course materials.

Course Description

We will conduct a number of online experiments that relate to and demonstrate concepts learned in Sensation and Perception (2220) or other cognitive neuroscience courses. Students will complete short experiments where they will acquire and analyze the data and respond to questions. The final project will require a slightly longer research report using APA guidelines.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in sensation and perception.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize and resolve conflicting results in sensation and perception.
3. Articulate trends in the psychology of sensation and perception

4. Locate research articles in sensation and perception and show critical thinking about research findings.
5. Express knowledge of sensation and perception in written form.
6. Engage in evidence-based dialogue with course director and peers.
7. Demonstrate an ability to work with others.

Specific Learning Objectives

This course is designed to further your skills in experimental design in the area of perception/ cognitive neuroscience. Together, we will participate in a number of perception/ cognitive neuroscience experiments online addressing questions about vision, perception and cognitive neuroscience. By conducting these experiments, you will also learn how to analyze data and you will practice presenting your results in the ways commonly used by research scientists—through oral and poster presentations as well as written reports.

This a laboratory course where you will be required to take part in short experiments/ data gathering exercises. During these classes you will take measurements on yourself that tap underlying cognitive neuroscience processes. Hopefully, you will glean some insight into the steps taken by cognitive neuroscientists when they perform experiments, and that you learn some of the basics of data management and analysis as well as presentation. This is intended to be a skills course rather than a content course, although hopefully you will learn something about perception and cognitive processes along the way.

In order to prepare you for particular labs, it will be necessary for at least some class time to consist of short lectures/discussion in which the necessary background material for the laboratories will be provided. However, this is not intended to be a survey course but rather a practical hands-on methods course. Class lectures will be recorded so that they can be viewed asynchronously.

Finally, this course is intended to be practical and empower you with basic critical thinking and basic computer skills that will serve you well regardless of your future endeavors. Thus, we will spend time making sure everyone knows how to work with data sets in Microsoft Excel including basic statistical calculations. You will also learn how to present your results visually, by plotting figures.

Required Text

- There is no required textbook but two texts are recommended for use in this course:
 1. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th Edition (2020).
 2. A copy of a textbook on Sensation and Perception may also be useful but not required.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Due Date	Weighting (%)
Assignment 1	January 28	10
Assignment 2	February 4	10
Assignment 3	February 11	10
Assignment 4	February 25	10
Assignment 5	March 4	10
Assignment 6	March 11	10
Assignment 7	March 18	10
Assignment 8	March 25	10
Final assignment	April 8	20
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

We will be participating in a short online experiment/demonstration each week. Upon completion of the online experiment, you will answer a series of short questions about the experiment/demonstration. Links to the experiments will be posted each week in eclass.

Class Format and Attendance Policy

Since we are online, attendance will not be mandatory but it is HIGHLY recommended if you are able. Classes will be recorded if you are unable to attend for some reason. We will meet on zoom and the link is posted on eclass.

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 - [Grading Scheme for 2020-21](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

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 below 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.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

It is recommended that you pass your papers through TurnItIn to help you avoid plagiarism.

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 would complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination unless the tests/exams are open-book.

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:

1. 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 PSYC4260 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. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule:

Jan	14	Introductory and planning meeting
	21	colour matching
	28	dark adaptation
Feb	4	blind spot mapping
	11	signal detection
	18	<u>READING WEEK</u>
	25	size constancy
Mar	4	Mueller-Lyer illusion
	11	visual search
	18	Stroop effect
	25	Inquisit online experiments
Apr	1	data sharing/ plotting in Excel
	8	class presentations of data