



Department of Psychology
Psychology 369 (L01) – Sensation and Perception
Fall 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Charles T. Scialfa	Lecture Location:	ES162
Phone:	403-220-4951	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 15:30-16:45
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Office:	Admin 151B		
Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

To provide an understanding of:

- basic anatomy and physiology of the visual and auditory and other sensory systems.
- major methods of measuring sensory function in vision and audition (e.g., acuity; pure tone sensitivity).
- classical psychophysical techniques, signal detection theory, and scaling.
- traditional (e.g. Gestalt) and contemporary (e.g., Marr) approaches to object perception.
- major theories of color perception.
- several views of attention and how it is measured behaviorally and physiologically.
- perception of depth and the information affording depth perception.
- motion, and in particular, the subjective impressions of velocity.
- essential concepts in pattern recognition as applied to vision and hearing.
- the interaction of bottom-up and top-down processes in perception.

Prerequisites

PSYC205 - Principles of Psychology

Required Text

Because of on-line materials developed to facilitate learning in the course, there is no required text. Many materials are available on-line in web resources developed by Dr. Donald Kline and his students under the PIP program. If you would like to have access to additional, course-related materials in textbook form, you may use...

Goldstein, E.B. (2002). Sensation and Perception. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth

Evaluation

There will be three equally weighted, non-cumulative examinations that will consist of multiple-choice questions. Test 1 is Oct. 12 test 2 is Nov 23 and the final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. Your final mark is the arithmetic average of the three exams, plus any credits for experiential learning and/or research participation.

Below you will find the grading system (in percent) that I will use to assign letter grades to each individual test as well as to your final grade for the course. Under no circumstances will the grading system be harsher than that shown here. I do reserve the right, however, to make the grading system more lenient, if circumstances should warrant such an unexpected show of compassion and mercy.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Ideally in table format with date of class, topics to be covered, and chapters/readings to be read. Due dates for tests/exams and assignments should be included in this schedule as well.

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date		
T Sep 14	Methods & Introduction	psyc369.psychophysics 1.ppt	Unit 1.1 - Introduction to Sensation and Perception Unit 1.2 - Measuring Sensitivity Unit 1.3 - Difference Thresholds and Magnitude Estimation
R Sep 16	Methods & Introduction	psyc369.psychophysics 1.ppt	
T Sep 21	Vision I	psyc369.visual system 1.ppt psyc369.visual system 2.ppt	Unit 2.1 - The Eye Structure and Function Unit 2.2 - The Retina
R Sep 23	Vision I	psyc369.visual system 4.ppt psyc369.visual system 5.ppt	
F Sep 24	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund. Vision II	psyc369.visual system 5.ppt	Unit 2.3 - Visual Pathways Unit 2.4 - The Visual Brain
M Sep 27	Last day for registration/change of registration.	psyc369.acuity.ppt psyc369.spat freq anal.ppt	Unit 4.1 - Spatial Vision

T Sep 28	Vision II	psyc369.acuity.ppt psyc369.spat freq anal.ppt	Unit 4.1 - Spatial Vision
R Sep 30	Vision II	psyc369.bright spat freq.ppt	Unit 3.1 - Brightness, Lightness, Darkness and Contrast
T Oct 5	Vision III	None	
R Oct 7	Vision III	None	
T Oct 12	Test I		
R Oct 14	Form	psyc369.form.ppt	Unit 4.4 - Perceiving Objects, Scenes and Faces
T Oct 19	Form		
R Oct 21	Depth	psyc369.depth dist percep.ppt	Unit 4.3 – Percpetion of Location, Depth and Distance
T Oct 26	Depth		
R Oct 28	Color	psyc369.colour.ppt	Unit 3.2 – Color Vision Unit 3.3 – Color Vision Deficiencies
T Nov 2	Color		
R Nov 4	Motion	psyc369.time and motion.ppt	Unit 4.2 – Perceiving Movement
T Nov 9	Motion		
R Nov 11	Remembrance Day. No lecture.		
T Nov 16	Attention	psyc369.attention.ppt	None
R Nov 18	Attention		
T Nov 23	Test 2		
R Nov 25	Audition I	psyc369.audition.ppt	Sound:The Auditory System and Pitch
T Nov 30	Audition I		
R Dec 2	Audition II	psyc369.audition2.ppt	Perceiving Loudness, Timbre and Location Clinical Aspects of Hearing
T Dec 7	Audition II		
W Dec 8	Last day to participate in research and allocate research	psyc369.speech.ppt	The Perception of Speech

	credits. Speech		
R Dec 9	Lecture ends. Review		
F Dec 10	Last day to withdraw.		

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances

(documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>
The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is Dec 8th, 2010.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 24th, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is Sep 27th, 2010. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 10th, 2010**.