



---

**Psychology 369 (L01)**

**Sensation & Perception**

|                      |                        |                           |                 |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Charles (Chip) Scialfa | <b>Lecture Location:</b>  | EEEL 210        |
| <b>Phone:</b>        | 403-220-4951           | <b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> | TTH 1400 - 1515 |
| <b>Email:</b>        | scialfa@ucalgary.ca    |                           |                 |
| <b>Office:</b>       | A251D                  |                           |                 |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | 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);
- classical psychophysical techniques, signal detection theory, and scaling.
- traditional and contemporary 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**

- Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology

**Required Text**

Goldstein, E.B. (2010). Sensation and Perception (8<sup>th</sup> ed). Wadsworth.

**Evaluation**

There will be three equally weighted, non-cumulative examinations that will consist of multiple-choice questions. Exam 1 is Feb 7th, exam 2 is Mar 20th and the final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. Your final mark is the arithmetic average of the three exams. The chapters covered on each exam are shown in the lecture schedule.

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.

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

| Date     | Topic   | Textbook Chapter   |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| T Jan 10 | Lecture begins.<br>Introduction and Methods                                 | 1                  |
| R Jan 12 | Methods including Signal Detection Theory                                   | 1,<br>Appendix     |
| T Jan 17 | Physiology of Perception  | 2                  |
| R Jan 19 | Physiology of Perception<br>Introduction to Vision                          | 2,3                |
| F Jan 20 | Introduction to Vision<br>Last day to drop a course with tuition refund.    | 3                  |
| M Jan 23 | Introduction to Vision<br>Last day for registration/change of registration. | 3                  |
| T Jan 24 | The Visual Cortex and Brain   | 4                  |
| R Jan 26 | The Visual Cortex and Brain   | 4                  |
| T Jan 31 | Functional Vision: Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity                          | None               |
| R Feb 2  | Functional Vision: Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity                          | None               |
| T Feb 7  | Test 1  | Ch 1-4<br>Appendix |
| R Feb 9  | Perceiving Objects and Scenes   | 5                  |
| T Feb 14 | Perceiving Objects and Scenes   | 5                  |
| R Feb 16 | Visual Attention  | 6                  |
| T Feb 21 | Reading days. No lecture.   |                    |
| R Feb 23 | Reading days. No lecture.   |                    |
| T Feb 28 | Visual Attention  | 6                  |
| R Mar 1  | Motion  | 8                  |

|          |  |                   |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| T Mar 6  | Motion<br>Color  | 8,9               |
| R Mar 8  | Color  | 9                 |
| T Mar 13 | Depth  | 10                |
| R Mar 15 | Depth  | 10                |
| T Mar 20 | Test 2   | Ch.<br>5,6,8,9,10 |
| R Mar 22 | Sound and the Auditory System                                | 11                |
| T Mar 27 | Sound and the Auditory System                                | 11                |
| R Mar 29 | Sound Localization and the Auditory Scene                    | 12                |
| T Apr 3  | Sound Localization and the Auditory Scene                    | 12                |
| R Apr 5  | Speech Perception  | 13                |
| T Apr 10 | The Cutaneous Senses   | 14                |
| R Apr 12 | The Chemical Senses  | 15                |
| F Apr 13 | Perceptual Development<br>Lecture ends. Last day to withdraw | 16                |
|          | Final Exam to be Scheduled by Registrar                      | 11-16             |

### 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.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### **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>

### **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 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Important Dates** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **January 20, 2012**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 23, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 13, 2012**.