

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
HH/PSYC 2220 3.0 Section A  
SENSATION AND PERCEPTION I  
Fall 2016**

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**Instructor and T.A. Information**

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**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

**Course website: [Moodle](#)**

**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 focusing 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.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

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

## Specific Learning Objectives

In this course, students will study:

- different sensory systems, focusing primarily on vision and hearing. Students will study the definition of the stimulus (light, sound), the physiology of the receptors and subsequent cortical areas that are activated.
- sensation and perception from an experimental perspective, covering the fundamental experimental paradigms used to study perception (psychophysics).
- examples of research on perception, and how these findings apply to our understanding of sensation and perception in everyday life.
- how our own personal expectations and prior knowledge of the world can influence perception, and how these cognitive influences are identified and assessed.

## Required Text

- Sensation and Perception, Goldstein (9th edition)  
ISBN-10: 1133958494 | ISBN-13: 9781133958499

**Take care in purchasing the correct text. We are using 9<sup>th</sup> Edition.**

## Course Requirements and Assessment

Mid-term exam 1	27.5%
Mid-term exam 2	27.5%
Final exam (cumulative)	40%
Discussion Participation	5%

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Mid-term 1	To be announced	27.5
Mid-term 2	To be announced	27.5
Final exam	To be announced	40
Discussion participation	Dec 5	5
Total		100%

## Description of Assignments

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answers (2-3 marks per question). See syllabus for the content covered in each exam.

All grades are final.

## 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 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes>)

## Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

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 do not 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 syllabus) 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.

There will only be ONE make-up exam. 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).

## Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Important Dates](#)

Important dates	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course <b>without</b> permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21	Sept. 21	Jan. 18
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Oct. 19	Feb. 1
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11	Feb. 10	March 10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a “W” on the transcript – see note below)	Nov. 12 - Dec. 5	Feb. 11 - Apr. 5	March 11 - Apr. 5

## Information on Plagiarism Detection

See links below

## **Electronic Device Policy**

Online course – not applicable

## **Attendance Policy**

Exams will be held on campus at York University (Keele campus). If you cannot write an exam you must contact a TA BEFORE the start of the test.

## **Academic Integrity for Students**

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

## **Test Banks:**

The use of test banks is not permitted in this course and may be considered a potential breach of academic honesty. This includes but is not limited too; buying or selling test banks.

## **Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:**

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

## **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 [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement

**Policy:** York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors

shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

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 HH/PSYC 2220 3.0A 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.

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**Course Schedule:**

See syllabus