

**FACULTY OF HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**Course:** *HH/PSYC 2220 3.0 – Sensation and Perception 1*

**Course Webpage:** *moodle11.yorku.ca/moodle/*

**Term:** *Fall Term 2011*

**Prerequisite / Co-requisite:** *HH/PSYC1010 6.0, with a minimum grade C*

**Course Instructor**

*Example: Heather Jordan  
Computer Science and Engineering 003b  
[hjordan@yorku.ca](mailto:hjordan@yorku.ca) Course consultation hours: Thursday, 10-11 am*

**Time and Location**

*Lectures Thursday 11.30 – 2.30 CLH – G*

**Course Description**

This course serves as an introduction to our current understanding the processing of visual and auditory stimuli, with an emphasis on humans. The course is organised around the principles that:

- Our senses have evolved over time to respond effectively in our environment.
- Although information falling on our sensory receptors is inherently ambiguous, we construct a sufficiently accurate perception of the world to interact with the world sufficiently.

The course includes information about the biology of our sensory systems, the mechanisms involved in processing sensory information, and the methodology used by to study both.

The course involves formal lectures (supplemented by films and videos) by Dr. Jordan, and independent reading/study on the part of the student. The teaching assistant for the course (TBA) will be available each week to answer questions about the course material and review of the exams. Dr. Jordan is happy to answer questions about the material for that week in class. *Each hour of lecture requires 2-3 hours independent work on the part of the student.* The required readings are central to the course, and the expectation is that each chapter will be re-read multiple times prior to exams. The lectures will serve to enrich, clarify, and illustrate the most crucial and complex aspects of the material. However, it is critical that the required reading chapter(s) are read at least once before the lecture.

### **Course Text / Readings**

The required textbook for this course is:

Wolfe, Kluender, Levi et al (2009) Sensation and Perception (2nd ed) Sinauer. ISBN 978-0-87893-953-4

Additional recommended readings will be posted on the course website.

### **Evaluation \***

The final grade for the course will be based solely on the following items weighted as indicated:

In-class Exam 1 (m/c & short answer):	25%
In-class Exam 2 (m/c & short answer):	25%
Exam 3 (m/c & short answer):	25%
Final Examination (m/c):	25%

m/c = multiple choice

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

There are no extra credit assignments available.

### **Grading, Assignment Submission,**

#### **Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests**

**Grading:** 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 (A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89.99, B+ = 75 – 79.99, B = 70-74.99, C+ = 65-69.99, C = 60-64.99, D+ = 55-59.99, D = 50-54.99, E = 45-49.99, F = 0-44.99)

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Faculty of Health section of the Undergraduate Calendar:

**Missed Tests:** Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., physician's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. The weight of a missed exam will be added to the weight of the final (cumulative) exam. A make-up for the final exam will be held at the Psychology departmental-wide make-up exam session. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Students with health-related, learning, physical, psychiatric, or sensory disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss their

concerns with the course instructor at office hours on or before 22/10/2011 so that appropriate arrangements can be made. A letter from disability services at York is required to receive academic accommodations.

### **IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents)

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
08/09/2011	The Eye	Chapter 1 (pp. 22-27) Chapter 2
15/09/2011	Spatial Vision	Chapter 3
22/09/2011	Perceiving and Recognizing Objects	Chapter 4
29/09/2011	Colour	Chapter 5
06/10/2011	<b>Exam 1</b> (25%) & Psychophysics Methods	Chapter 1 (pp. 10-18)
20/10/2011	Depth Perception and Binocular Vision	Chapter 6
27/10/2011	Motion Perception	Chapter 7
03/11/2011	Attention and Scene Perception	Chapter 8
10/11/2011	<b>Exam 2</b> (25%)	
17/11/2011	The Ear and Psychoacoustics	Chapter 9
24/11/2011	Hearing in the Environment	Chapter 10
06/12/2011	Music and Speech Perception	Chapter 11
Final Exam Period	<b>Exam 3</b> (25%) and <b>Final Exam</b> (25%)	

**Last date to enrol with Instructor's permission – Oct. 4**

**Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade – Nov. 11**