



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

**Perception
PSYCO 367, B1
Winter 2021**

Instructor: James Farley

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Web Page: <https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/course/view.php?id=68706>

Office Hours: By appointment, please contact to make arrangements

Teaching Assistant(s): YanFei Song

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Lecture Time: Tues Thurs 2:00-3:20 pm

Lectures will be delivered in a synchronous format (i.e. 'live', at our regularly scheduled class time) via Zoom. A permanent link to these sessions will be available on our eClass page. Although the lectures will be delivered live, recordings of each lecture will be posted on eClass and there is no requirement to attend these lectures live.

Course Description: An introduction to theoretical and experimental issues associated with sensory and perceptual experience. [Faculty of Science].

Course Prerequisites: PSYCO 275 or 258. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they have the appropriate prerequisite(s) for the course.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes: This course expands upon basic concepts related to sensation/perception introduced in previous courses offered by the department, including the relationship between the physical properties of stimuli and how these relate to perceptual experience, the anatomy/physiology of the sense organs, and the neural mechanisms associated with their processing. Issues related to basic and applied sensation/perception research will also be discussed.

Required Textbook: Goldstein, E. B., & Brockmole, J. R. (2017). Sensation and Perception (10th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. [ISBN 9781337346955]

Important Dates: See the current Calendar for the [Academic Schedule, Dates, and Deadlines](#), which include the Registration Add/Drop deadline and Withdrawal date.

Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings:

Week/Dates	Topic	Readings
1: Jan 12, 14	Introduction to Perception	1
	Beginning of Perceptual Process	2
2: Jan 19, 21	Neural Processing	3
3: Jan 26, 28	Cortical Organization	4
4: Feb 2, 4	Objects and Scene	5
	Visual Attention	6
5: Feb 9, 11	Taking Action	7
6: Feb 16, 18	<u>Reading Week</u>	
7: Feb 23	Midterm 1	
Feb 25	Motion	8
8: March 2, 4	Colour	9
9: March 9, 11	Depth and Size	10
March 12	Research Proposal Outline Due	
10: March 16, 18	Hearing: I	11
11: March 23, 25	Hearing: II	12
12: March 30	Midterm 2	
April 1	Speech Perception	13
13: April 6, 8	Cutaneous Senses	14
April 9	Research Proposal Due	
14: April 13, 15	Chemical Senses	15
15: April 28 (tentative)	Final Exam	

Grade Evaluation:

Distribution of Grades												
Letter grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
% Range	≥95	90-94	85-89	80-84	75-79	71-74	67-70	63-66	60-62	55-59	50-54	<50
Grade points	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0
Descriptor	Excellent			Good			Satisfactory			Poor	Minimal Pass	Fail

This table contains an approximate guideline for the course, however the instructor reserves the right to adjust this table and assign appropriate grades based on relative performance.

Grades are unofficial until approved by the Department and/or Faculty offering the course.

Components of Course Grade:

Assessments	Weighting	Date
Midterm 1	20%	Feb 22
Research Proposal Outline	02%	March 12
Midterm 2	25%	March 29
Research Proposal	18%	April 9
Final Exam**	35%	April 28 ***

** There is no possibility of a re-examination in this course.

*** WARNING: Students must verify this date on BearTracks when the Final Exam Schedule is posted.

Proposal: Each student will complete one assignment in the style of a brief research proposal. This will involve proposing a new experiment that generates new knowledge about some aspect of perception. These proposals should have a clearly defined hypothesis and methodology for testing it, as well as some predictions for possible results (and what those results would mean, i.e. how that would enrich our understanding of what was studied). More detailed instructions will be provided on e-class.

A brief outline detailing the plan for your proposal is due by Friday March 12th (by 11:59 pm). This should present a clear and specific hypothesis, as well as a viable method for testing it. This does not need to include much detail (one or two paragraphs should suffice). Completed proposals are due by Friday April 9th (by 11:59 pm). 10% will be deducted from late submissions per day, starting at midnight. For example, papers submitted at any point on April 10th will have 10% deducted, etc.

Format of Midterms: The midterms will be accessible on the scheduled days identified in this syllabus (Feb 22 and March 29), at our regularly scheduled class time (2 pm) via our eClass website. Students will have 80 minutes to complete their responses. At 3:20 pm, any responses that are still in progress will be automatically submitted by eClass.

The midterms will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Students may consult their own personal resources while completing the midterms (the textbook, lecture slides, their own notes). In other words, these quizzes will be in an ‘open-book’ format. However, students are not permitted to collaborate with anyone else during these quizzes and doing so would constitute academic misconduct. A practice quiz will be provided to formalize students with this format. The second midterm is not cumulative.

Format of Final Exam: The format of the final exam will be similar to the midterms that are competed throughout the semester and will also consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Additionally, students will be asked to respond to two long-answer format questions. These questions will be posted on eClass 72 hours before the final exam. This will allow students to prepare those responses ahead of time if they so choose.

Attendance: Please refer to the Calendar policies on [Attendance](#).

Representative Evaluative Material: Sample quiz questions will be provided on eClass prior to the first quiz.

Missed Term Exams and Assignments: For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes to request accommodation for the term (including the final exam, where relevant). Instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the student request.

A student who cannot complete an exam or assignment due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons must contact the instructor as soon as possible (and at the very latest, within 48 hours of missing one). At the discretion of the new instructor, a student may be allowed to either complete the exam or assignment at another time or reallocate the associated course weight towards something else (e.g. another exam).

In the event that a shift in weighting to the final exam increases its weight to >40%, this does not change the original 'syllabus weight', meaning the student does not now qualify for possible re-examination. Transferring the weight of missed quizzes to the final exam could result in the student not being approved for a deferred final examination as they may not have completed the required 50% of term work.

In all cases, instructors may request a declaration to substantiate the reason for the absence, at their discretion. The Psychology Statutory Declaration form can be downloaded from the Documents folder on the Psychology Intranet. Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour. Deferral of term work/exams is under the discretion of the instructor, however, a student must apply to their Faculty for a deferral of a final exam, see below. Students granted a deferral for either the first or second midterm will write it on March 2nd or April 6th (respectively) at 3:30 pm.

Deferred Final Examination: A student who cannot write the final examination due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply to their Faculty for a deferred final examination. Students who failed at the start of term to request exam accommodations for religious beliefs are expected to follow the normal deferred final examination process. Such an application must be made to the student's Faculty office within two working days of the missed examination and must be supported by appropriate documentation or a Statutory Declaration (see Calendar for information on [Attendance](#)). Deferred examinations are a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferred examination will be granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferred examination is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*. Students granted a deferral for their final exam will write it on May 20th at 1 pm.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Guidelines for Respectful Online Engagement: Students from many different backgrounds participate in courses at the University of Alberta. Sexist, racist, homophobic comments and other inflammatory remarks are not conducive to learning in our courses, and absolutely are not permitted. All participants are governed by the [Code of Student Behaviour](#). Be mindful when discussions involve controversial topics or issues, and consider the possibility that members of our community have themselves experienced some of these issues and/or very different realities because of these issues. Participate in a respectful and considered manner.

If you are witness to or the target of abusive or offensive behaviour in any course, please inform your instructor immediately. You may also contact the Psychology Undergraduate/Graduate Advisor, Associate Chair of Undergraduate/Graduate, or Chair.

Academic Integrity: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

While the exams are open book (meaning students are not prohibited from accessing any personal resources such as their textbook, lecture slides, notes, etc.), students are not permitted to collaborate while completing these assessments. Doing so would constitute a violation of the student code of conduct and will be regarded as such.

All students should consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for clarification on the various offences. If you have any questions, ask your instructor. All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Any offence will be reported to the Associate Dean of the Faculty, who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#). Sanctions range from a grade of zero for an exam or paper in question, with no opportunity to replace the grade or redistribute the weights, to a disciplinary failing grade with a period of suspension or expulsion from the University of Alberta.

Students should refer to the Calendar information on [Conduct of Exams](#) for more information.

Recording and/or Distribution of Course Materials: Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Note that the discussion sessions will be recorded and uploaded to eClass so that they are available as a resource for other students in the class. If you contribute to these sessions please be aware that whatever identifying information you provide (text, voice, video, etc.) may be included in whatever data is uploaded. If you would like that identifying information removed, please contact the instructor and I will attempt to do so.

STUDENT RESOURCES:

COVID-19 Updates: Updates pertaining to university-related activities can be found on the [COVID-19 Information website](#).

Student Services and Resources: General information about various services, including academic, financial, health, safety, and career development, can be found on the website for [Current Students](#).

Accessibility Resources (AR) (1 – 80 SUB): The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. AR promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage. Eligible students have both rights and responsibilities with regard to accessibility-related accommodations. Consequently, scheduling exam accommodations in accordance with AR deadlines and procedures is essential, and adherence to procedures and deadlines is required for U of A to provide accommodations.

Academic Success Centre (1-80 SUB): [The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students strengthen their academic skills and achieve their academic goals. Individual advising, appointments, and group workshops are available year round in the areas of Accessibility, Communication, Learning, and Writing Resources. Modest fees apply for some services.

The Centre for Writers (1-42 Assiniboia Hall): The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

First Peoples' House: [The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds: The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, and Faculty of Science are committed to ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination, harassment, and violence of any kind. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. This includes virtual environments and platforms.

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

Disclaimer: Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and/or posted on the course website (e.g., eClass). The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

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