

Sensation & Perception

PSYC 215

Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. Tyson W. Baker
Contact: Tyson.Baker@Queensu.ca
Lectures in Kingston Hall 201: Tuesday 10:00am-11:20am
 Thursday 8:30am-9:50am
Office Hours in Humphrey 235: Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm
 Thursday 10:00am-11:00am

Teaching Assistants (TA): Karolina Krzys kjk6@queensu.ca

- Tutorial sections 4,8
- Student Accommodations (not extenuating circumstances or cue sheets)
 - Upload QSAS form to dropbox in OnQ

Edwyn Lo el74@queensu.ca

- Tutorial sections 3, 5, 9

Kate Zucconi 13ketz@queensu.ca

- Tutorial sections 2, 6, 7

	Discussion Forum	Email Me	Email Your Tutorial TA
Questions about course content , exams , assignments , and tutorials	Yes		
Questions/comments including sensitive information (e.g. extenuating circumstances)		Yes	If it relates to tutorials. (CC me)
Need to meet outside office hours		Yes	
QSAS Accommodations (Upload to dropbox in OnQ first)		Karolina will help you (CC me)	
Reviewing exams & assignments	Check for instructions		

Course Site

Course material, announcements, and students' grades will be available on [OnQ](#). OnQ will be used to communicate with the class regarding any cancellations, so please be sure to turn on news announcements and check in regularly.

If you have any technical problems, [take a screenshot](#) and check the help menu. If that doesn't work, then email the screenshot and a detailed description of the problem to me and your TA.

Course Description

The course introduces sensory information processing and perception as well as methods used to study the relationship between the physical energy that is sensed (e.g. light and sound) and the subjective experience of objects and events. Mechanisms underlying perception of touch, body position, taste, smell, hearing, and vision are covered.

3 credit hours

Pre-requisites: PSYC 100

Textbook: E. Bruce Goldstein, Sensation and Perception, 10th edition. Thomson/Wadsworth, 2014.
-Available in the bookstore

Course Content

This schedule is subject to change and is a rough guideline for content. Because these chapters do not fit perfectly into 80-min lectures, I've made this schedule a little faster than I expect to cover the material (You can see midterms a little later than the material on them). If we complete content ahead of schedule, then we will start the subsequent content in the same lecture.

Date(s)	Lecture Topic	Relevant Readings
Jan 8	General Course Introduction	Syllabus
Jan 10	Introduction to Perception	Chapter 1
Jan 15, 17	The Beginning of the Perceptual Process	Chapter 2
Jan 22, 24	Neural processing	Chapter 3
Jan 29	Cortical Organization	Chapter 4
Jan 31, Feb 5	Perceiving Objects & Scenes Assignment 1 (5%) due Jan 31 11:00pm	Chapter 5
Feb 6	Visual Attention	Chapter 6
Feb 12	Midterm 1 (15%)	Chapters 1-5
Feb 14	Perceiving Colour	Chapter 9
<i>Feb 19, 21</i>	<i>No Class: Reading Week</i>	---
Feb 26	Perceiving Colour	Chapter 9
Feb 28, Mar 5	Perceiving Depth & Size Assignment 2 (5%) due Feb 28 11:00pm	Chapter 10
Mar 7	Perceiving Motion	Chapter 8
Mar 12	Hearing I: Cochlea & Pitch	Chapter 11
Mar 14	Midterm 2 (15%)	Chapters 6, 9, 10, 8
Mar 19	Hearing I: Cochlea & Pitch	Chapter 11
Mar 21	Hearing II: Location & Organization	Chapter 12
Mar 26, 28	The Cutaneous Senses Assignment 3 (5%) due Mar 28 11:00pm	Chapter 14
Apr 2	The Chemical Senses	Chapter 15
Apr 4	Leftovers & Review	
Dec 8-18	Final Exam (30%) to be scheduled by the Examinations Office	All, with an emphasis on 11, 12, 14, 15

Please note that the final exam could be scheduled late in the exam period (I have no control over this) and **you are responsible for being available to write the exam at any point in the exam period.** Thus, I STRONGLY advise you to NOT book flights until the exam schedule becomes available!

Grading Scheme and Grading Method

Both midterms will occur during normal class time. Grades will be posted on OnQ. You can meet with your TA to view your exams; details will be posted on OnQ once grading is complete.

Component	Weight %	Comments
Midterm Exams (2)	2 x 15% = 30%	Midterm exams are designed to evaluate understanding of the material presented. Students are responsible for all textbook readings and lecture material. There will be 2 75-minute midterm exams during class time. Midterm exams are NOT cumulative and will consist of multiple choice (bring pencils!) and short-answer questions.
Final Exam	30%	The final exam IS cumulative, but the emphasis will be on material not covered on previous tests. Students are responsible for all textbook readings and lecture material. The final exam will consist of multiple choice (bring pencils!) and short-answer questions. This exam will be scheduled during the formal examination period.
Tutorials (5)	5 x 5% = 25%	Tutorials are an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge and think scientifically about selected topics. You will be formulating hypotheses, testing hypotheses, and designing experiments. The format of tutorials may vary, but typically include a topic introduction from your tutorial TA, an activity (e.g. data collection or just experiencing a phenomenon), then perhaps time at the end to apply your knowledge in a short assignment. Some tutorials may require you to provide data to your tutorial TA, who will then process the data and return it at a later date to complete your tutorial assignment. Tutorial assignments to be completed independently unless otherwise specified by your tutorial TA. There will be no tutorials the first 2 weeks of class.
Assignments (3)	3 x 5% = 15%	Assignments will have students answering questions or problems posed to them. Compared to tutorials, assignments will emphasise finding and interpreting peer-reviewed literature related to sensation and perception. Assignments may require students to find examples of perceptual phenomenon, then explain them according to what we have learnt in class. Assignments are to be completed independently.

All components of this course will receive numerical marks that will be summed to produce your course total. Only your course total will be rounded according to mathematical convention. Your rounded course total will be converted to a letter grade according to Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Bonus Marks

Students may earn up to 3% in bonus marks. See the end of the syllabus for details; it is a long standard statement that doesn’t fit well right here.

Tips for Success!

Ask questions during lectures! If something is unclear to you or you have another question, chances are there are other students thinking the same thing. It makes lectures so much more enjoyable and allows everyone to benefit from your questions.

Study as frequently as possible; there is a massive amount of literature demonstrating that frequent studying is far superior to infrequent studying even when total study time is the same. **The most efficient minutes to study are right before lecture** because you can review the material from the last lecture that often continues into the oncoming lecture. An added bonus is that I’m right here if you have any questions. In the “General Introduction” I will go through some methods to increase study efficiency; it’s worth using them! If you think reading is studying, check out those methods.

Please make use of the discussion board on OnQ for course-related content. Email your TA and myself (on the same email) if you have any questions unsuitable for the discussion board (e.g. personal information). Some concepts are best explained in-person, so just drop in to my office hours (you don’t need an appointment; I’ll be there). If you would like to meet but cannot make it to my office hours, email me with the reason you cannot attend my office hours and your available times for the next 5-7 days and I’ll reply with the first time our schedules match.

Location and Timing of Final Examinations

As noted in Academic Regulation 8.2.1, “the final examination in any class offered in a term or session (including Summer Term) must be written on the campus on which it was taken, at the end of the appropriate term or session at the time scheduled by the Examinations Office.” The exam period is listed in the key dates prior to the start of the academic year in the Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Calendar and on the Office of the University Registrar’s webpage. A detailed exam schedule for the Fall Term is posted before the Thanksgiving holiday; for the Winter Term it is posted the Friday before Reading Week, and for the Summer Term the window of dates is noted on the Arts and Science Online syllabus prior to the start of the course. Students should delay finalizing any travel plans until after the examination schedule has been posted. Exams will not be moved or deferred to accommodate employment, travel/holiday plans or flight reservations.

Academic Considerations for Students in Extenuating Circumstances

The Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances (<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslcwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/Academic%20Considerations%20for%20Extenuating%20Circumstances%20Policy%20Final.pdf>) was approved in April, 2017. Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and which have a direct and substantial impact on their ability to meet essential academic requirements. Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. Arts and Science undergraduate students can find the Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the portal where they submit a request at: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/accommodations>. Use Tyson.Baker@Queensu.ca as the course contact email. Students in other Faculties and Schools should refer to the protocol for their home Faculty.

For **tutorials** (or tutorial assignments requiring your data) missed due to extenuating circumstances, the missed grade will be replaced with the mean of the other tutorials. For tutorials missed NOT due to extenuating circumstances, the grade is 0. Tutorial assignments not requiring your data are treated like assignments

For **assignments** that are late due to extenuating circumstances, an extension will be given matching the duration that of the extenuating circumstances. If extenuating circumstances are 48 hrs, then a 48-hr extension will be granted. If extenuating circumstances last 7 days, then a 7-day extension will be granted, and so on. For assignments that are late NOT due to extenuating circumstances, 1% will be subtracted daily from the assignment and no assignments later than 5 days will be accepted. Thus, an assignment that would have earned 3.2/5 but was 2 days late (-2/5) would earn 1.2/5.

For **midterm exams** missed due to extenuating circumstances, students will write an alternate midterm exam in the last few weeks of the course. For midterm exams missed NOT due to extenuating circumstances, I will prorate the exam as half the weighted mean of the other midterm and final exam.

For **final exams** missed due to extenuating circumstances, we follow departmental policies:

<http://www.queensu.ca/psychology/undergraduate/current-students/departmental-policies>

Students who cannot write an exam during the December or April exam period due to a serious, extenuating circumstance (illness, death in the family) must follow the steps below to be eligible to write a deferred exam during the PSYC department's *Make up Exam period* in January, April/May, and September.

1. Apply for academic consideration using the Faculty of Arts and Science Portal: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/accommodations>
2. As soon as possible, follow up with your instructor(s) either by email or in-person to discuss your academic consideration request
3. If your request for a deferred exam is approved, be available to write the makeup exam the PSYC department's *Make up Exam period* in January, April/May or September, or receive '0' on the exam.
4. Complete and return the instructor-signed [Permission for an Incomplete Grade](#) (PDF, 256 KB) form available on the Arts and Science website, and return to the Undergraduate Office.

NOTE: Students who do not write the makeup exam are advised to drop the course. If a student cannot write the makeup exam due to a serious extenuating circumstance for which they can provide new documentation, they will either be granted a second deferral by their instructor or be supported in their appeal to drop the course after the deadline though this decision rests with the Associate Dean (Studies).

Accessibility

Queen's is committed to an inclusive campus community with accessible goods, services, and facilities that respect the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities. PSYC 271 is available in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports upon request. Please contact me for support.

Accommodations

Students with accommodations must upload their accommodations form to the dropbox in OnQ.

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Wellness Services (SWS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the Student Wellness website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/>

Technology in our Classroom

Use of electronic devices within the classroom must be class-relevant and sound/vibration must be turned off. Contact me before class if you require special consideration.

Intended Student Learning Outcomes

- Describe how sensory information is transcribed into neural activity, and compare and contrast the transduction process across several senses.
- Distinguish the types of information available in the sensory input, and how the brain can work on this information.
- Discriminate between the physical properties of a stimulus and the perception of that stimulus.
- Identify when sensory illusions provide insights into the perceptual process, and when available, provide a neural explanation for those illusions.

Academic Integrity

Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for supporting and upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity. Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org) and by the quality of courage. These values and qualities are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with and adhering to the regulations concerning academic integrity. General information on academic integrity is available at Integrity@Queen's

University, along with Faculty or School specific information. Departures from academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification. Actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning, to loss of grades on an assignment, to failure of a course, to requirement to withdraw from the university.

Copyright

This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in the PSYC 215 course. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in the PSYC 215 course. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Privacy

This course makes use of Turnitin for assignments and tutorials. http://turnitin.com/en_us/about-us/privacy

Participant Pool (Volunteer Research Participation)/FAQ

In this course you can earn bonus points by participating in the Psychology Research Participant Pool. For every half hour of research completed, you can increase your final mark in this course by 0.5% up to a maximum of 3 %. If you are enrolled in more than one eligible course, you will select the course toward which your research participation will be credited when you sign up for a study. You can complete studies toward each course. You cannot apply the same study credit to more than one course, and research credit cannot be used to improve a failing mark to a passing mark. The last day to participate in research for bonus credit is the last day of classes. For more details, please see the information posted at the [Psychology Participant Pool page on the Department website](#).

All students will be activated in the participant pool by the 3rd week of the term. If you have previously used the participant pool, you will use the same userid and password that you used previously. If you are new to the participant pool, you will receive an email with your login information by the 3rd week of class.

In addition, during the first week of the semester, you will be emailed a link to an online prescreening questionnaire that will be due by the end of the drop/add period (second Friday of the term). If you complete the larger prescreening questionnaire online, you may become eligible for additional studies, and those researchers will contact you directly to find a time to participate.

Participation in research is entirely voluntary. If you want to earn credit but don't want to participate in a particular study, you can complete an alternative assignment instead. For the alternative assignment, researchers either will offer a walk-through of their experiment, or they will have you to read an article or blog post, listen to a short podcast, or watch a short video and then answer questions about it. To complete an alternative assignment, you must contact **the principal investigator** of a particular study (see the study's contact information on SONA for their email) before the last week of classes for the semester to complete the alternative assignment option. Note that your course instructor is not involved in the administration of studies and alternative assignments. Although the length of studies will vary, all alternative assignments will last approximately 30 minutes, so you will earn 0.5% for each alternative assignment that you complete.