SENSORY PROCESSES Psych2E03

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Department of Psychology  
office hour: Wednesday 10am-11am  

Instructional Assistant: Brett Beston - (bestonbr@mcmaster.ca)  

Lectures: Monday 7:00-10:00pm CNH-104  

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World Wide Web http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/Psychology/psych2e03

• Introduction to the study of sensory and perceptual processes. Chapter 1 pg. 1-11  
• Introduction to the Visual System Receptors and Neural Processing. Chapter 2  
• The Lateral Geniculate Nucleus and Striate Cortex-- anatomy, physiology, and perceptual pro-  
cessing of the central visual system. Chapter 3  
• Higher Level Visual Processing -- parallel processing streams and specialized neural processing  
of visual stimuli. Chapter 4 (NOT pg. 130-137).  
• Psychophysics -- the experimental methods used to study the relationship between sensations  
and physical stimuli. Chapter 1 pg. 11-18.  
• Perceiving Objects -- extraction and recognition of features and objects in the visual environ-  
ment. Chapter 5 (NOT pg. 165-168)  
• Perceiving Colour -- physiological and psychophysical studies. Chapter 6  
• Mid-term Test FRIDAY October 28 7:00-9:00pm -- 30% of final grade  
• Perceiving Depth and Size -- various cues to depth and the underlying physiological mecha-  
nisms. Chapter 7  
• Perceiving Movement -- eye movements, vestibular system; the detection and discrimination of  
objects moving in the environment. Chapter 8  
• The Cutaneous Senses-- the receptors, neural pathways, thresholds, and adaptation of the sensa-  
tions of touch. Chapter 13  
• The Chemical Senses -- the anatomy, physiology, and psychophysics of the sensations of taste  
and smell. Chapter 14  
• Auditory system -- sound; structure of the ear and arrangement of the central auditory pathways.  
Chapter 10  
• Perception of Sound -- the detection and subjective dimensions of sounds. Chapter 11  
• Speech Perception-- speech stimulus and perception. Chapter 12
• Attention -- the various methods used to select among the numerous stimuli available in our environment. Chapter 4 pg. 130-137; Chapter 5 pg 165-168.

• Perceptual constancy -- objects in the environment have a relatively constant set of properties, such as size, shape, colour. However, a number of factors can influence our perception of those properties. Chapter 6 pg 206-215; Chapter 7 pg 25-260.

**Final Exam -- All Course Material,**

**40% of final grade**

**In-Class Laboratory --** Write-up a lab report based on an in-class lab experiment (approximately 5 typed double-spaced pages), 20% of final grade.

• In-Class Lab Experiment -- collect data November 7 - lab report due November 21

**Definition--** Write-up a 2 definition (2 typed double-spaced pages) for one of the terms listed on the web page, including an annotated reference list, 10% of final grade.

Definition due: -- October 17

**Evaluations:**

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Final marks may be adjusted up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the student’s overall performance in the course.

Lab reports or Definitions handed in late will lose one full letter grade for each day past the due date.