COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: PSYCH 3A03 AUDITION

Prerequisites: One of BIOLOGY 2A03, PSYCH 2E03 or PSYCH 2F03.

Instructor: Dr. Paul Faure
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behavior, PC 111
Phone: 905.525.9140, ext. 26393; email: paul4@mcmaster.ca

Course TAs: Riziq Sayegh, PC 151; Phone: ext. 26042; email: sayeghr@mcmaster.ca
Michael Chrostowski, PC 320; Phone: ext. 24832; email: chrostm@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: By appointment. The best way to contact us is via email.

Location: Lectures are held Monday & Wednesday (1130-1230 hrs) and Friday (1330-1430 hrs) in T-28.


Overview. PSYCH 3A03 is a Faculty of Science course intended for junior or senior undergraduates in the fields of Psychology and Biology. The course provides an introduction to the biology of hearing and auditory perception. The emphasis is on fundamental auditory principles, their underlying physiological mechanisms, and experimental methods used in hearing research. Topics include physical acoustics; sound analysis; structure (neuroanatomy) and function (electrophysiology) of the mammalian auditory system; auditory perception; and psychoacoustics.

Course Calendar (subject to revision) & Assigned Readings [Y#### = pages to read from Yost textbook]

SEPT
F05: Introduction and Welcome. What is Sound? [Y01-07]
M08: Physical Acoustics 1. The Nature of Sound Waves [Y18-25]
W10: Physical Acoustics 2. Simple Harmonic Motion [Y11-14; 263-267]
M15: Physical Acoustics 4. Sound Intensity and Pressure: The Decibel (Full Moon) [Y25-27; Y269-270]
W24: Sound Analysis 1. Fourier Analysis [Y271-273]
F26: Sound Analysis 2. Resonators & Filters [Y53-63]
M29: Audio Demonstrations; Physical Acoustics Problems Tutorial (New Moon)

OCT
W01: Review Session
F03: Mid-Term Examination I
M06: Peripheral Auditory System 1. Outer and Middle Ear [Y67-81]
W08: Peripheral Auditory System 2. Inner Ear: Structure (New Moon) [Y83-90]
M13: No Class (Thanksgiving Day, Canada)
F17: Peripheral Auditory System 5. The Auditory Nerve [Y113-120; Y287-293]
M27: Central Auditory System 2. Electrophysiology I: Cochlear Nucleus [Y229-241]
F31: Review Session (Halloween)

NOV
M03: Mid-Term Examination II
W05: Auditory Psychophysics [Y275-279]
F07: Psychoacoustics 1. Threshold Detection [Y143-150]
M17: Psychoacoustics 5. Temporal Masking [Y166-172]

DEC
M01: The Abnormal and Aging Auditory System [Y249-261]
Important Dates

15 September 2008 (Monday): Last day for registration and adding or dropping courses
03 October 2008 (Friday): Mid-Term Examination I
05 November 2008 (Monday): Mid-Term Examination II
07 November 2008 (Friday): Last Day for canceling courses without failure by default
03-17 December 2008: Final Examination (date and time scheduled by the Office of the Registrar)

Website. Check <http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/psych3a03/index.html> for info and updates.

Policies and Logistics. The following policies are necessary in order to be fair and equitable to all students.

Attendance. You are expected to attend all lectures and exams. If you are late, please do not disrupt and/or disturb your fellow students who arrived in a timelier manner and are already seated and working. Talking during lecture, and related disturbing behavior, is inconsiderate. Do not schedule holiday travel during lectures or exams.

Audio and Video Recordings. The recording of lectures and exams (video or audio) is prohibited.

Readings. In this course you are expected to go beyond the memorization of facts to display an understanding of the material. Some students will find this difficult. You are strongly encouraged to read the relevant text chapters on a particular topic before and after the lecture devoted to that topic. The initial reading will help you to follow along during the lecture and to identify those areas in which you are having difficulty understanding. The follow-up reading(s) will help you to recall, synthesize and consolidate the material that was presented during the lecture.

Handouts And Notes. Handouts and problem sets will be posted in .PDF format on the course website. Psych 3A03 has no course packet because it is absolutely essential that you attend class and develop proper note-taking skills. If you miss a lecture it is your responsibility to obtain the notes on this material from a classmate. I advise against trying to take verbatim notes during the lecture because it will be difficult for you to keep up and to think critically about what is being discussed. Moreover, most of the material discussed in class can also be found in the text or by searching the web, albeit presented from a different perspective. Slides shown during lecture will not be posted on the web because of copyright restrictions. To consolidate your knowledge, students are encouraged to search the web to obtain additional information and/or pictures pertinent to a particular topic.

Grading. Your performance in the course will be evaluated with 3 multiple-choice examinations and 2 writing assignments. The first two exams will be Mid-Term Examinations of one-hour duration each and will be held in-class. Each Mid-Term will count for 25% of your Final Grade. The third exam will be a Final Examination of three-hours duration and will be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. The Final Exam is cumulative and will count for 40% of your Final Grade. Calculators, books, notes, etc. are prohibited during all examinations; all you will need is a supply of pencils, erasers and, of course, adequate knowledge of the subject matter being tested. The assignments are worth 10% of your Final Grade (5% each) and instructions will be posted on the course website.

Makeup Exams. If you miss an exam you will need to have a valid excuse AND be able to document this excuse in order to qualify for a makeup examination. Examples of legitimate excuses include sickness, religious holiday, and conflict with another M.U. academic or sports event. If you simply skip an exam, hoping that an eventual excuse will become acceptable, then you will receive a zero for that exam. Psych 3A03 does not subscribe to proposals for “extra work” in mitigation of exam delinquencies. A makeup exam will NOT be given unless arrangements are made with the course Instructor or TAs in advance of the regularly scheduled examination, or in the case of illness you must submit a medical note to your Faculty office within one week of the regular exam.

Review Sessions. The lecture period prior to each Mid-Term Examination will be used as a question and answer session to review course material. You will benefit greatly from these sessions by coming prepared with specific questions in mind. Do not expect the course Instructor or TAs to repeat the original lecture on a particular topic.

Seeking Help. Please ask the course Instructor or TAs for help at any time if you need it. As a learner, it is your responsibility to recognize when you need help and then ask for it.

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means, and can result in serious consequences for a student such as the grade of zero on an exam or assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the student’s transcript that reads “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”, and/or suspension or expulsion from McMaster University. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to McMaster’s Academic Integrity Policy located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/ac_ethics.htm>.