Syllabus 3EE3 - Perception Lab
Winter Session 2003

Course Objectives and Content: There are three goals for this course: (1) Improve your ability to present material in written format; (2) Develop tools to present material orally, both formal presentation and more casual discussion of course content; (3) Hone research methods knowledge through participation in canned experiments and development of a group project. Given the wide range of topics covered under the rubric of perception, we will be forced to be selective. As such, the basic content material of the course plays a secondary role to the development of confidence with written presentation, oral skills and research design knowledge.

Photocopied set of readings to be supplied at cost. We will collect $40 in the second class.
One pair of stereo headphones

Meeting time: Tuesday 14:30-17:20; Wednesday 16:30-17:20.

Instructors: David Shore: dshore@mcmaster.ca
Chris Taylor: taylorcp@mcmaster.ca
Ranil Sonnadara: ranil@mcmaster.ca

Assignments and grading: Since this is a laboratory class, there will be no mid-terms and no final exam. Instead there will be a number of small assignments and one large final project. Each assignment is worth a small amount (3-10%), but these quickly add up! All assignments have strict deadlines and late assignments will be given a ZERO. All assignments must be submitted in APA format without exception.

Article summaries: There are eight (8) of these based on the weekly readings. The first six revolve around the planned experiments while the last two come from the different group projects. These are short (no more than 2 pages) papers that summarize the articles. The goal is to cover the question, hypothesis, methods and key findings from the paper. You must be concise to fit into two pages—extra writing will not be read! The goal here is to look at your style of writing. Are you making a point? Are you using an outline? Of the eight submitted papers, your best six (6) will be counted. This section will constitute 20% of your final grade. These assignments are due at the beginning of class on the Tuesday of every week in which they are assigned.

Data analysis: There are six planned experiments in which you will each participate. After you collect data on yourself, you will create a figure of the data with a caption explaining the main points demonstrated in the figure. Again, the goal is to be concise and direct in your caption and clear and informative in your figure. Of the six submitted papers, your best five (5) will be counted. This section will constitute 20% of your final grade. These are due at the beginning of class on the Wednesday of the week in which they are assigned. It is expected that you should be able to complete the majority of this assignment in your 1.5 hour lab time.

Manuscript: For three of the class experiments you will write a report including all parts of a manuscript (See APA manual). All submission must be in APA format. The class results (figure and statistics) will be supplied to you along with the critical information for the methods. Each submission will be graded and annotated and returned to you. You will then be allowed to re-submit these manuscripts. Grades for both the original and the re-submission will be considered in assigning your final grade. Of the three submissions, your best two will be counted, however, you must submit all three and receive a passing grade. That is, you cannot
skip a submission entirely. This section will constitute 20% of your final grade. The assignments are due by
5:00 PM on Thursday of the week in which the assignment is due.

**Group Projects:** You will be assigned to small groups (3-5 participants). Together you will develop an
experimental project: Come up with the question, do the literature search, design the experiment, implement it,
collect the data and write it up. Each group will be assigned an instructor to help develop the ideas and
implement the project. The prototypical project will replicate a finding in the literature and extend this in an
interesting and unique way. This is a group project and as such you will work as a collaborative team on the
project. For this purpose, there is a 3RF3 conference on the LearnLink system on campus. Your first task in
this class is to ensure that you have an account on this system and can access this conference. You need to do
this before the beginning of the second lecture! There are two evaluative components to this section—one
written and the other oral. The entire group will submit one paper and do one presentation for which
everybody will receive the same grade. This project will constitute 30% of your final grade.

**Class participation:** The last 10% of your grade will be determined through three evaluative tools: (1) Your
participation in class will be evaluated by each of the instructors; (2) Your participation within your group will
be peer-evaluated; (3) A final interview with the instructor dealing with the content of both the course material
and the group project

## OUTLINE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Manuscript</th>
<th>Group Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue, Jan07</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>D1</td>
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<td>Tue, Jan14</td>
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<td>A2</td>
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<td>Tue, Jan28</td>
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<td>P1; Introduction</td>
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<td>Tue, Feb18</td>
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<td>Reading Week</td>
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<td>Tue, Apr08</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wrap Up</td>
<td>6/8</td>
<td>5/6</td>
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The instructors reserve the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or
the individual's total performance in the course. Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are
altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and the details will be announced in class. Attention is drawn to
Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty as found in the Senate Policy Statements
distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office. Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated
according to the published policy. **PLAGERISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

**Policy Reminder:** All excuses for missed assignments must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your
faculty/program. It is then also your responsibility to speak with your professor as soon as possible. Notes for exemption from course
requirements must be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean of your faculty/program within one week of the original due date
of the missed work. After that time, students must appeal to have an exemption. Note that senate regulations for petitions for special
consideration have always required that: "40. The student shall make a prompt and timely request for special consideration." NO
REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER ONE MONTH.