



Department of Psychology
Psychology 215a – Introduction to Sensation and Perception
Fall 2003

1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the study of the human senses and higher order perceptual processes. Data gathered from psychophysical research and studies of the nervous system in both humans and other animals will be discussed. The course will review the mechanisms and principles of operation of vision, hearing, touch, taste and smell.

Antirequisites: Psychology 115a/b and the former Psychology 212a/b, 213a/b, 211E.

Prerequisite: At least 60% in a 020-level Psychology course.

4 lecture hours, half course.

2.0 COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Kimberley Clow
Office:	King's College; S302
Email:	kclow2@uwo.ca
Time and Location:	Mon 12-2; SA150 Wed 12-2; LH105b
Office Hours:	Mon 10-noon; S302
Course Website:	http://instruct.uwo.ca/psychology/215a-570

3.0 TEXTBOOK

Coren, S., Ward, L.M., & Enns. J.T. (2004). *Sensation and Perception*. 6th Edition. New York: Wiley.

4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will survey the structure and function of the senses. Through classroom lectures and demonstrations, the methods, findings and theories of sensation and perception will be examined.

5.0 EVALUATION

Student evaluation will be based on a combination of two term tests and a final exam:
Test 1 and Test 2 are each worth 30%. These two tests are NOT cumulative.
The final exam is worth 40% and is CUMULATIVE.

All three exams will consist entirely of multiple-choice questions selected from BOTH lecture and textbook material (material contained in videos and examples shown during class time are considered lecture material).

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS FOR TESTS. IF YOU MISS A TEST, YOUR FINAL EXAM WILL BE REWEIGHTED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE MISSING TEST. IF YOU MISS ONE TERM TEST, YOUR FINAL EXAM WILL BE WORTH 70%. IF YOU MISS BOTH TERM TESTS, YOUR

FINAL EXAM WILL BE WORTH 100%.

All students are expected to complete exams on the scheduled dates. Special exams will be provided for the final exam **only** on medical or compassionate grounds with the appropriate supporting documentation (please see attached policy on illness and make-up examinations). Special make-up exams for the final exam may consist – in part or exclusively – of fill in the blank, essay short-answer and/or multiple-choice items.

There will be four grading options. After all exams have been written, whichever grading option generates the highest grade will be chosen for each and every student. The four grading options are:

- (1) Test 1 (30%), Test 2 (30%), Final Exam (40%)
- (2) Test 1 (30%), ignore Test 2, Final Exam (70%)
- (3) Ignore Test 1, Test 2 (30%), Final Exam (70%)
- (4) Ignore Test 1 and Test 2, Final Exam (100%)

6.0 LECTURE AND EXAM SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Chapter
September 8	Introduction	1
September 10	Measurement	2
September 15	Measurement	2
September 17	Visual System, Brightness, & Colour	3 & 4
September 22	Visual System, Brightness, & Colour	3 & 4
September 24	Visual System, Brightness, & Colour	3 & 4
September 29	Visual System, Brightness, & Colour	3 & 4
October 1	Auditory System & Hearing	5 & 6
October 6	Auditory System & Hearing	5 & 6
October 8	Test 1	
October 13	No Class – Thanksgiving	
October 15	Auditory System & Hearing	5 & 6
October 20	Auditory System & Hearing	5 & 6
October 22	Taste, Smell, & Touch	7
October 27	Taste, Smell, & Touch	7
October 29	Patterns & Edges	8
November 3	Patterns & Edges	8
November 5	Space	9
November 10	Space	9
November 12	Test 2	
November 17	Object Perception	10
November 19	Object Perception	10
November 24	Time	11
November 26	Motion	12
December 1	Development & Experience	15 & 16
December 3	Development & Experience	15 & 16
December 5-17	Final Exam	

If you miss a class, cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate; **the instructor will not provide his/her notes to students.**

7.0 POLICY REGARDING MAKE-UP EXAMS*

IF, ON MEDICAL OR COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS, YOU ARE UNABLE TO WRITE A FINAL EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS LISTED BELOW. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION WILL NOT BE GRANTED AUTOMATICALLY ON REQUEST. **INSTRUCTORS ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO OFFER MORE THAN ONE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE A MAKE-UP EXAM.** YOU **MUST** DEMONSTRATE TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR THAT THERE ARE **COMPELLING** MEDICAL OR COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS THAT CAN BE DOCUMENTED BEFORE ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION WILL BE CONSIDERED. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. IN ALL CASES, ACTION MUST BE TAKEN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. THE INSTRUCTOR SHOULD BE NOTIFIED THAT A MAKE-UP EXAM IS NEEDED **PRIOR** TO THE SCHEDULED FINAL.

Make-up examinations will not be given for missed term tests. The final exam is re-weighted instead.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

1. You require the permission of the Dean, the instructor, and the chair of the department in question to write a make-up final examination.
2. If you are unable to write a final examination (i.e., an exam during the exam period), immediately contact the Academic Counselling Office to request permission to write a make-up final examination and to obtain the necessary form. You should also inform your instructor at this time. If the instructor is not available, send them an email, leave a voicemail message, and/or leave a message for him/her in their department mailbox.
3. You will be required to provide acceptable supporting documentation for your absence from the original test before a make-up will be granted.
4. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and the department chair and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval.
5. Make sure you know the date, time, and location of the make-up examination!

ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION

Personal Illness: If you consulted Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should complete a Records Release Form at the Academic Counselling Office of your faculty. This form will be forwarded to Student Health Services, which in turn will provide confirmation of the problem to the Academic Counsellor. At your request, the Academic Counsellor will send confirmation to your instructor(s). If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office. In either case, the doctor should provide verification of the nature of the illness, the severity of the illness, and the duration of the illness. Notes stating “for medical reasons” are not considered sufficient.

Illness of a Family Member: Obtain a medical certificate from the family member’s physician.

Death of a Loved One: Obtain a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate, or documentation provided by the funeral director.

8.0 POLICY ON CHEATING AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT*

Cheating will not be tolerated. The University of Western Ontario uses software to check for plagiarism and cheating on multiple choice exams. Students are responsible for understanding the nature, and avoiding the occurrence, of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer’s words or ideas. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgments necessary in academic papers: in using another writer’s words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of

another writer; in adopting another writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are his/hers. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence may range from refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, to expulsion from the University.

9.0 PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS*

First, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Executive Officer of the Undergraduate Affairs. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course of program was taken. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean, may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

The grounds for appeal may be one or more of the following: medical or compassionate circumstances, extenuating circumstances beyond the appellant's control, bias, inaccuracy, or unfairness. All grounds must be supported by a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons for the appeal together with all supporting documentation.

* Portions of these sections were taken from the following sources: Academic Calendar, Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations, Department of Psychology Procedures for Appealing Academic Evaluations, and the Department of History Document on Plagiarism.