



PSYX2247

Perception

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Psychology

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General Information

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N/A

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

PSYX105 or PSYC105 or PSYU1105

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Perception, using the senses, is an organism's only link to the outside world. As the only method for our brain to absorb information, perceptual processes mediate what we believe is real and everything we have ever learned. This unit investigates the mechanisms of perception through all of the major senses, giving special attention to the best understood sense of all: vision. We explore aspects from the physiological bases of the senses to the rich and complex experiences and illusions that they produce, answering questions such as 'How do 3D movies work?', 'How do we know which way is up?', 'Why are some people colour-blind?', 'What do wine-tasters know that I don't?', 'How can we tell the pitch of a musical note?', and 'How do we tell our friends from strangers?'

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Identify, define and demonstrate an understanding of the key terms, physiological processes, research findings and theories related to human perception.

ULO2: Interpret, synthesise and critically evaluate theories and empirical research in human perception.

ULO3: Appreciate the difference between the real world (what is) and the phenomenological world (what seems to be), and explain 'real world' perceptual phenomena.

ULO4: Recognise ethical challenges in perception research involving children and animals.

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

General Assessment Information

Mid-Semester Test

The Mid-semester Test will assess all topics covered in lectures, practicals and assigned reading before the mid-semester break, **except for the week 7 lecture. It will take place during the mid-session recess via iLearn.**

Final Exam

This exam will assess *only the aspects of the course on vision, plus the multisensory lecture*. Some information from the introduction and general principles lecture will also be relevant, as much of this lecture applies to all of the senses. This includes the content covered in lectures, practicals and assigned reading. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated by Open Universities Australia. See <https://www.open.edu.au/your-studies/getting-started/exams> for more information on exams.

Online Quizzes

Online quizzes must be completed individually by each student. Although reference materials may be used, it is advised that students also prepare for each quiz by reviewing the relevant material before attempting the questions. The online quizzes will be delivered via the online iLearn webpage for the unit. Therefore, access to a reliable computer that connects to the Internet is required. Technical difficulties will not be accepted as a reason for special consideration. Quizzes will be opened each week from week 3 to week 12. Students will have precisely one week (from the beginning of the lecture) to complete each quiz. No extensions will be given. The online quizzes should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. Detailed feedback on your performance will be provided at the end of the week in which the quiz is made available.

Practical Worksheets

To be completed as part of practical exercises conducted via iLearn

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

PSYX2247 is delivered as an online unit via Open Universities Australia (OUA). Please read this Unit Guide in conjunction with information provided about studying a Macquarie University unit via OUA at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/other-study-options/open-universities-australia>.

This unit is taught through lectures and practical exercises with support from web-based resources such as iLearn, including the online discussion board. While lectures are useful principally for introducing new concepts and knowledge, practical exercises allow more direct interactions between your OUA tutor and other students. They are your opportunity to enhance your understanding further by participating in activities and asking questions. The iLearn discussion board also allows students to discuss topics in greater depth, and may also feature contributions by staff members when there appears to be confusion amongst the student body. The lecture schedule set out above is a guide only, and is intended to be flexible. On occasion, more time will be spent on certain topics if additional explanation is required. As such, material from one lecture may overlap into the next, where necessary.

Technology Used and Required

For this unit you will need to have access to a computer that can reliably connect to the Internet. This will be essential for accessing lecture and practical material, and completing assessment tasks. The unit's web-page, which can be found at: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

Required Text

Snowden, R., Thompson, P., & Troscianko, T. *Basic Vision: an introduction to visual perception 2nd Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

This is a very accessible text that is always popular with students. It introduces technical concepts in an easy-to-grasp fashion, and is an excellent introduction to the discipline of visual perception. It will be an indispensable resource for students on this course.

Recommended Text

Mather, G. *Foundations of Sensation & Perception, 3rd Edition*. Taylor & Francis Group, 2016.

This text offers broader coverage of perception in general, and will be especially useful for topics outside of vision, which Snowden *et al.* does not cover. It also offers more technical detail than Snowden *et al.* in certain areas, allowing the conscientious student to deepen their understanding of the topics that are covered in the required text.

Access to Assigned Reading Material

Both the required and the recommended texts are available for purchase, but there are also hard copies available at the library in the main collection as well as those available for download as eBooks. Where availability is limited, students should consider using previous editions of each book which are just as good for most topics.

[Basic Vision, 2nd Edition \(2014\)](#)

Basic Vision, "Revised" Edition (2012)

[Note: As far as I can see, these are identical, and either could be referred to as the 2nd Edition.]

Basic Vision, First Edition, (2006), available in print only

Foundations of Sensation & Perception, 3rd Edition

Foundations of Sensation & Perception, 2nd Edition

What does it take to do well in this unit?

Students are expected to pay close attention to all lectures and to take notes to aid their retention of the material covered. Active participation in practical exercises is essential for understanding and experiencing the content of the course. Reading assigned during each lecture should be completed close to the date of the relevant lecture. Review of the material (individually, or in group sessions) in the student's own time will be essential to consolidate knowledge and enhance understanding. Timely completion of, and active participation in practical exercises is also mandatory. Online lecture quizzes offer the chance to answer questions while using resources such as textbooks and lecture notes. This open book format is unlike formal examinations, and offers an opportunity for grade enhancement that should not be missed. In addition, other learning resources will be made available, such as lists of key terminology.

It should be noted that according to Senate guidelines, workloads should involve 1 hour per credit point per week. This results in 10 hours per week (including lectures and practicals) for a 10 credit point unit such as this.

Note: Assessment will be based on the successful *understanding* of material from lectures, practicals and from the assigned reading. Please note that rote learning alone will not be a successful strategy, as the assessments will test for deeper appreciation of the course material in a variety of formats. Simply remembering the “facts” will not suffice. Students need to demonstrate their understanding of the principles, and demonstrate the ability to apply such understanding in new contexts.

What material is examinable?

Obviously, the exact details of the questions to be asked in the examinations will not be released in advance. However, questions will come from topics covered during lectures and practicals. Where additional information on these topics is supplied in the assigned reading, this should also be considered examinable. The examinations will not feature questions on topics not covered during lectures even if they are included in the assigned reading.

Statement on Social Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in university life and

flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others on the basis of their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual preference, age, political conviction or religious belief. All lecturers, tutors and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone. The Unit Convenor is a member of the [Ally Network](#) and is happy to provide support to members of the LGBTIQ community.

Unit Schedule

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Unit Overview

The Unit Convenor role will be filled by A/Prof Kevin Brooks. Early lectures by Kevin Brooks and Kirk Olsen will concentrate on the low-level mechanisms of perception through a variety of senses, with special attention given to the details of auditory and visual perception. In later lectures, Kevin Brooks, Ann Carrigan and Regine Zopf will cover higher-level issues, such as the perception of faces and objects, the issue of multisensory integration and the development of perceptual abilities.

Practicals will supplement and build upon the lecture material, allowing a hands-on approach to perceptual phenomena and their explanation. Another aim of the unit is to teach general skills. Aptitude for written communication and problem-solving skills will be refined in practicals, and demonstrated in examinations through multiple-choice questions. Web/IT skills will be used in practicals, as well as in accessing the parts of the course housed on the unit's iLearn web page, including online assessments.

Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading:

Session Week	Topic (Lecturer)	Assigned Reading	Also Relevant
1	Course Introduction (KB) General Principles/Methods (KB)	Mather, Ch1	Snowden et al., Ch0, 12

2	Sound, Ear & Brain (KO) Auditory Perception (KO)	Mather, Ch4	-
3	Auditory Perception (KO) Body Senses (KB)	Mather, Ch5	-
4	Body/Chemical Senses (KB)	Mather, Ch2 Mather, Ch3	-
5	Light, Eye & Brain (KB)	Snowden Ch1-2	Mather Ch6-7
6	Spatial Vision (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch3-4	Mather Ch9
7	Colour Vision (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch5	Mather, Ch8
8	Motion Perception (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch6	Mather, Ch12
9	Depth Perception (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch7	Mather, Ch11
10	Visual Development (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch8	-
11	Face Perception (KB) Q&A on KB's lectures (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch10	-
12	Shape & Object Perception (AC) Multisensory Processing (RZ)	Mather, Ch10 Mather, Ch13	-
13	Study Week	-	-

Practicals

The practical program will run from university session weeks 3-6 and 9-12 inclusive and will concern the following topics.

Practical Topics:

Session Weeks	Topic
3-4	Illusions & Aftereffects
5-6	Spatial Vision
9-10	Binocular (3D) Vision

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study

strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.