



PSYU2247

Perception

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

School of Psychological Sciences

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Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(PSYC105 or PSYU1105 or PSYX105 or PSYX1105 or PSYU1102 or PSYX1102) or COGS100 or COGS1000

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 be able to explain 'real world' perceptual phenomena.

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

General Assessment Information

If there are legitimate reasons why you are unable to complete an assessment task as specified,

you should lodge an application for special consideration through www.ask.mq.edu

Note that some assessments for this unit are conducted online. Therefore, access to a reliable computer and internet connection is essential. Technical difficulties will not be accepted as a reason for special consideration.

Mid-Session Exam

The Mid-session exam will assess all topics covered in lectures, practicals and assigned reading before the mid-semester break. It will be held online at 1pm on Tues. 12/4/2022. It should be noted that **this is in the first week of the mid-session recess**. The test is "open book" (i.e. you can use resources such as lecture notes, textbooks, web resources, etc.).

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 lecture 1 and lectures 5-12, all associated assigned reading and practicals.

The final exam for this unit is currently scheduled to occur on Macquarie University campus. If you are physically unable to attend campus for example because you are located overseas, alternative arrangements will be made. The date and time for this exam will be timetabled centrally and announced later in the semester. Students are expected to make themselves available for the final exam at the date and time set by the University in line with the Assessment Policy and Procedure. Sitting the final exam is compulsory in order to be eligible to pass the unit. Any student who does not attempt the final exam will be given a Fail Absent grade.

Online Quizzes

Online quizzes will be administered weekly from week 3 to week 12 and 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. Students will have precisely one week (from the beginning of the lecture) to complete each quiz. No extensions will be given. Detailed feedback on your performance will be provided when the quiz closes.

Practical Worksheets

Online worksheets, which accompany the practical activities, must be completed and submitted by the end of each of the 4 practical sessions you complete. Although some students may attend face-to-face practicals and others may attend online, the activities and worksheets are identical.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Online Quiz	16%	No	One week after the wk 3 to wk 12 lectures (Tuesdays, 1pm)
Practical worksheet	9%	No	In each of the 4 practical classes.
Mid-session exam	25%	No	1pm, 12/04/2022
Final examination	50%	No	TBA

Online Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **One week after the wk 3 to wk 12 lectures (Tuesdays, 1pm)**

Weighting: **16%**

10 multiple-choice quizzes, based on unit content. The top 8 quizzes will each contribute 2% to the final unit grade.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, define and demonstrate an understanding of the key terms, physiological processes, research findings and theories related to human perception.
- Interpret, synthesise and critically evaluate theories and empirical research in human perception.
- Appreciate the difference between the real world (what is) and the phenomenological world (what seems to be), and be able to explain 'real world' perceptual phenomena.
- Recognise the ethical challenges in perception research involving children and animals.

Practical worksheet

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **In each of the 4 practical classes.**

Weighting: **9%**

Four practical worksheets, completed as part of the practical class based on class content. The top three out of four worksheets contribute to the final unit grade.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, define and demonstrate an understanding of the key terms, physiological processes, research findings and theories related to human perception.
- Interpret, synthesise and critically evaluate theories and empirical research in human perception.
- Appreciate the difference between the real world (what is) and the phenomenological world (what seems to be), and be able to explain 'real world' perceptual phenomena.

Mid-session exam

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 23 hours

Due: **1pm, 12/04/2022**

Weighting: **25%**

Mid-session multiple choice exam, assessing unit content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, define and demonstrate an understanding of the key terms, physiological processes, research findings and theories related to human perception.
- Interpret, synthesise and critically evaluate theories and empirical research in human perception.
- Appreciate the difference between the real world (what is) and the phenomenological world (what seems to be), and be able to explain 'real world' perceptual phenomena.
- Recognise the ethical challenges in perception research involving children and animals.

Final examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 46 hours

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **50%**

Final examination held within the University's formal exam period, in accordance with relevant requirements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, define and demonstrate an understanding of the key terms, physiological processes, research findings and theories related to human perception.
- Interpret, synthesise and critically evaluate theories and empirical research in human perception.
- Appreciate the difference between the real world (what is) and the phenomenological world (what seems to be), and be able to explain 'real world' perceptual phenomena.
- Recognise the ethical challenges in perception research involving children and animals.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Unit Versions

Two versions of this unit exist:

“In person scheduled weekday,” also known as “F2F”

and

“In person / online scheduled weekday,” also known as “F2FONL”

For general information on unit versions, see this website <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/enrolling/choosing-units>

F2F

This version of the unit has on-campus tutorial/practical classes only. Students should not attend on-campus classes if they are unwell or have any cold and flu-like symptoms. Ensure you follow the most recent University COVID-19 advice <https://www.mq.edu.au/about/coronavirus-faqs/information-for-students>

F2FONL

This offering has some online tutorial/practical classes and some on-campus classes, although these options are limited. Online tutorial/practical class options are intended to be reserved for students with genuine need to study online (for example, those who are studying offshore, or those who have other exceptional circumstances that prevent on-campus attendance for the entire semester). The online tutorials should not be attended by students who simply prefer to study online. Class availability can be seen via eStudent class enrolment: the location of the class indicates whether it is an online class or an on-campus class. Note that enrolment in online classes does not mean that the entire unit will be taken online. Certain assessment tasks (for example, final exams) can still be scheduled to have compulsory on-campus attendance.

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 completing some assessments (see the section on "Assessment Tasks"), and in accessing the unit's web-page, which can be found at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au>. It will also be essential for those engaging in online practicals. Although some computers will be available for those attending face-to-face practicals, it is recommended that you bring your own device if possible.

Note that for practical #3 students will require anaglyph 3D glasses (either red-blue or red-green). Although pairs will be available for students in face-to-face practicals, students completing online practicals will be required to source their own. Anaglyph glasses can be purchased from many stores online or can be constructed at home very cheaply.

It is University policy that the University-issued email account will be used for official University communication. All students are required to access their University account frequently.

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. 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. Active participation in practicals is also mandatory. Online practical worksheets are assessed and need to be completed on time. Online quizzes offer the chance to answer questions while using resources such as textbooks and lecture notes. While students who are on top of the material may find the questions relatively easy to answer in a short time period, those whose knowledge is still developing have the opportunity to research their answers over an extended period of time, if necessary. This format is unlike the other assessment tasks, and offers an opportunity for grade enhancement that should not be missed.

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 the 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 campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus 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

Overview

The course will comprise lectures and practicals supported by assigned reading. Although some of the material from these separate components may be related to each other, different concepts and topics will be contained in each. While lectures are useful principally for introducing new concepts and knowledge, practicals allow more direct interactions between instructor and students, allowing a hands-on approach to perceptual phenomena and their explanation. They are your opportunity to enhance your understanding further by participating in activities and asking questions.

Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading:

Weekly lectures will be delivered on Tuesdays from 1-3pm in the Lotus Theatre, 27 Wally's Walk. Early lectures 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. Later lectures will cover higher-level processing, such as the perception of faces and objects, the issue of multisensory integration and the development of perceptual abilities. The lecture schedule set out below 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.

Session Week	Topic (Lecturer)	Assigned Reading	Also Relevant
1	Course Introduction General Principles/Methods	Mather, Ch1	Snowden et al., Ch0, 12
2	Sound, Ear & Brain Auditory Perception	Mather, Ch4	-
3	Auditory Perception Body Senses	Mather, Ch5	-
4	Body/Chemical Senses	Mather, Ch2 Mather, Ch3	-
5	Light, Eye & Brain	Snowden Ch1-2	Mather Ch6-7
6	Spatial Vision	Snowden et al., Ch3-4	Mather Ch9
7	Colour Vision	Snowden et al., Ch5	Mather, Ch8
8	Motion Perception	Snowden et al., Ch6	Mather, Ch12
9	Depth Perception	Snowden et al., Ch7	Mather, Ch11
10	Visual Development	Snowden et al., Ch8	-
11	Shape & Object Perception Multisensory Processing	Mather, Ch10 Mather, Ch13	-
12	Face Perception Q&A	Snowden et al., Ch10	-
13	Study Week	-	-

Practicals

The practical program will run from university session weeks 3-6 and 9-12 inclusive. During this period, students will attend four practicals either in weeks 3, 5, 9 & 11, or in weeks 4, 6, 10 & 12, as set out on iLearn. This differs from the information at timetables.mq.edu.au, which in this case should be ignored. Note that practical sessions that fall on public holidays will be rescheduled. The revised dates and times for these will be announced on iLearn.

Face-to face practicals, held in [12 Second Way - 316 Faculty PC Lab](#), and online practicals, conducted via Zoom, will feature the same content and assessment tasks, and will be conducted by experienced tutors who will be your first contact if you have problems with this unit. Their names and contact details can be found in the "Teaching Staff" section. The schedule and topics to be covered are displayed below. The content of the practical classes is identical for all classes.

Due to restrictions on the availability of resources in the laboratory and to health and safety regulations (including Covid considerations) it is important that you attend the practical in which you enrolled. Those not attending their assigned group will be asked to leave.

Managing Classes: Changes to all units can be made online via eStudent. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TUTORS AND LECTURERS ARE UNABLE TO HELP WITH THIS. After week 2, no further changes will be allowed unless supporting documentation about the reason for changing is provided and there is space in the tutorial you wish to change into.

Practical Topics:

Session Weeks	Topic
3-4	Illusions & Aftereffects
5-6	Spatial Vision
9-10	Binocular (3D) Vision
11-12	Psychophysical Methods

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/su\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/su)

[pport/study/policies](#)). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](#) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Grading

Macquarie University follow standards-based assessment of student performance. All individual assessment tasks are subject to moderation, consistent with the Assessment Policy and Procedure. A student's final mark for this unit, and associated grade, must reflect their attainment of the unit learning outcomes, and isn't necessarily a simple summation of their individual assessment items.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
23/02/2022	Error in time of mid-session exam has been corrected. It will be at 1pm, 12/04/2022.