PSYU2247

Perception

Session 1, Online-scheduled-In person assessment, North Ryde 2023

School of Psychological Sciences

Contents

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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

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Assessment Policy.

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the Assessment Procedure (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

The final exam for this unit is scheduled to occur on Macquarie University campus. 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 granted a Fail Absent grade.

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. 11/4/2023. 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.

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
Final examination	50%	No	S1 Formal Exam Period (exact date TBA)
Mid-session exam	25%	No	11/04/2023
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.

Final examination

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 46 hours
Due: **S1 Formal Exam Period (exact date 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.

Mid-session exam

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 23 hours
Due: **11/04/2023**
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.

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.

[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

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online and face-to-face learning activities, including readings, online modules, and lectures. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Unit Versions

Two versions of this unit exist:

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

and

“Online-scheduled-In person assessment” also known as “ONL”

F2F version

For the “In person scheduled weekday” unit offering: Students can enroll in either an on-campus lecture (space permitting) or an online/live-streamed lecture classes. Tutorial [/practical] classes all run on campus only. Students should not attend on-campus classes if you are unwell or have any cold and flu-like symptoms.

ONL version

For the “online scheduled with on campus assessment” unit offering: This version of the unit is “online scheduled weekday”. Tutorial [/practical] classes all run online via zoom. Lectures will run live online at the time and day indicated in the timetable. The final exam for this unit will be on Macquarie University campus.

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

Technology Used and Required

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library. 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 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.

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 Macquarie Theatre, 21 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). 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/support/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.

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 Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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.

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 based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff 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.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
17/02/2023	Updated tutor Xanthe Harrison's e-mail address.