PSYU2239

Perception and Cognition

Session 1, Online-scheduled-In person assessment, North Ryde 2025

School of Psychological Sciences

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General Information

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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
[(PSYU1102 or PSYX1102) and (STAT1103 or STAX1103)] OR [COGS1000, COGS1005, and STAT1170]

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces you to two fundamental topics within psychological science: perception and cognition. Perception, using the senses, is an organism's only link to the outside world. As the sole method for our brain to absorb information, perceptual processes mediate what we believe is real and everything we have ever learned. We will explore aspects from the physiological bases of the senses to the rich and complex experiences and illusions that they produce. Cognition is the study of the workings of the human mind. Major topics of cognition include mechanisms of visual and auditory attention, varieties of short- and long-term memory, language processes such as reading and written word recognition. Although the focus of the unit is on normal adult cognition, we will also examine disorders of cognition including acquired dyslexias and various forms of memory impairments.

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: Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in the core topics in perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
ULO2: Analyse, critique, and discuss topics of and research relating to perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
ULO3: Communicate a breadth of understanding of topics in perception and cognition, including in written mode to convey thoughtful, scientifically driven information (Capability 2: Practitioner).
ULO4: Demonstrate effective application of cognition and perception knowledge, research methods, and ethical principles for positive impact at the foundational level of competency (Capability 4: Professional)

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.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, and/or performance assessments/presentations, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration if requesting an extension.

The **Written Reflection task based on your experience with perception and cognition research** is due on the last day of the Semester, and no extensions are possible. The PSY SONA research participation pool system closes at midday of the last day of the semester (6/6/2025), and no signup to research is possible beyond this time. Only research credits accrued up to midday of 6/6/2025 will be counted towards this assessment task.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Quiz	40%	No	02/05/2025
Written Reflection	10%	No	midday 6/6/2025 (no extension)
Final exam	50%	No	Semester 1 Examination period (date TBA)
Course Capability Reflection	0%	No	06/06/2025

Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 34 hours
Due: **02/05/2025**
Weighting: **40%**

This quiz will assess your understanding of content up to this point.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in the core topics in perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Analyse, critique, and discuss topics of and research relating to perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Communicate a breadth of understanding of topics in perception and cognition, including in written mode to convey thoughtful, scientifically driven information (Capability 2: Practitioner).
- Demonstrate effective application of cognition and perception knowledge, research methods, and ethical principles for positive impact at the foundational level of competency (Capability 4: Professional)

Written Reflection

Assessment Type [1]: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 5 hours

Due: **midday 6/6/2025 (no extension)**
Weighting: **10%**

You will submit a short written reflection on your experiences with cognitive and perceptual research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in the core topics in perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Analyse, critique, and discuss topics of and research relating to perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Demonstrate effective application of cognition and perception knowledge, research methods, and ethical principles for positive impact at the foundational level of competency (Capability 4: Professional)

Final exam

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 44 hours
Due: **Semester 1 Examination period (date TBA)**
Weighting: **50%**

You will be required to sit the final examination held within the University's formal exam period, in accordance with relevant requirements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in the core topics in perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Analyse, critique, and discuss topics of and research relating to perception and cognition (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Communicate a breadth of understanding of topics in perception and cognition, including in written mode to convey thoughtful, scientifically driven information (Capability 2: Practitioner).

- Demonstrate effective application of cognition and perception knowledge, research methods, and ethical principles for positive impact at the foundational level of competency (Capability 4: Professional)

Course Capability Reflection

Assessment Type [1]: Portfolio
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 5 hours
Due: **06/06/2025**
Weighting: **0%**

You will complete an exercise to reflect, with evidence, on how this unit has further developed your capabilities and psychological literacy, including development towards your personal and professional goals.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective application of cognition and perception knowledge, research methods, and ethical principles for positive impact at the foundational level of competency (Capability 4: Professional)

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[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

Delivery

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

Unit Versions

Two versions of this unit (PSYU2239) exist: “In person scheduled weekday,” also known as “F2F” or "INTERNAL"

and “Online-scheduled-In person assessment” also known as “ONL” or "EXTERNAL". This is

NOT to be confused with PSYX2239 offered via OUA (Open University Australia).

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. Tutorials run on campus only. Students should not attend on-campus classes if they are unwell or have any cold and flu-like symptoms.

ONL version

For the “Online-scheduled-In person assessment” unit offering: Tutorials run online via zoom. Lectures will run live online at the time and day indicated in the timetable, and will be recorded for later viewing. The final exam for this unit will be on Macquarie University campus.

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

Resources

Recommended texts

Perception

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

Access to Assigned Reading Material These 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

Cognition

Eysenck, M.W., & Keane, M. (2000). Cognitive psychology. 8th Edition, Hove, UK. Psychology Press.

Technology Used

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.

Note that for Perception tutorial #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 tutorials 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.

Unit Schedule

Overview

The course will comprise lectures and tutorials 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, tutorials allow more direct interactions between instructor and student, allowing a hands-on approach to perceptual and cognitive 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 **Fridays 1-3 pm** in the **Lotus lecture Theatre, 27WW** (Wally's Walk). Perception lectures will be delivered by Kevin Brooks in Weeks 1-7, and the cognition lectures will be delivered by Sachiko Kinoshita in Weeks 8-13. For the up-to-date lecture schedule, refer to the iLearn unit homepage.

Tutorials The tutorial program will run from **university session weeks 2-13 inclusive**. During this period, students will attend **six 2-hour tutorials** either in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12, or in weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13, as set out on iLearn. Note that tutorial sessions that fall on public holidays will not be available; students who attend these classes will need to attend an alternative class on the same topic. Face-to face tutorials, held in **12SW (Second Way) - 316 Faculty PC Lab**, and **online tutorials, 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 "Unit Contacts" section on iLearn. The schedule and topics to be covered are displayed below.

What to do if you miss a tutorial (including those scheduled on public holidays) As tutorial attendance is not recorded, there is no need to submit a special consideration request for absence from a tutorial. However, the tutorial content is examinable, and it is your responsibility to keep up with the material. **Attending an Alternative Class.** The tutorial topic runs for 2 weeks, and there are many tutorial classes. You could turn up to an on-campus class other than the one in which you are registered, but be aware that the tutor can turn you away if the session is oversubscribed. You could ask to join an online Zoom class; e-mail the tutor taking that class for permission to attend, and the Zoom URL. If You Cannot Attend an Alternative Class. Much of the tutorial material is available in the TUTORIAL block for the relevant (even) week. The structure of the tutorial is the same for all topics as described above. Of course you will miss out on the class discussion; ask your peers to help you.

PSYU2239 unit schedule 2025

Session week	Starting Monday	Lecture topic	Tutorial topic
1	24/2/2025	General Principles/Methods in Perception	

Session week	Starting Monday	Lecture topic	Tutorial topic
2	3/3/2025	Light, Eye and Brain/Spatial Vision	Perception prac 1
3	10/3/2025	Spatial Vision	Perception prac 1
4	17/3/2025	Colour Vision	Perception prac 2
5	24/3/2025	Motion Perception	Perception prac 2
6	31/3/2025	Depth Perception	Perception prac 3
7	7/4/2025	Shape & Object Perception/ Face & Body Perception	Perception prac 3
midsession recess	14/4/2025		
8	28/4/2025	Quiz	Cognition prac 1 (The Stroop effect)
9	5/5/2025	Introduction to cognition/Attention	Cognition prac 1
10	12/5/2025	Working memory	Cognition prac 2 (The phonological similarity effect)
11	19/5/2025	Episodic memory	Cognition prac 2
12	26/5/2025	Semantic memory	Cognition prac 3 (The levels-of-processing effect)
13	2/6/2025	Word recognition and reading	Cognition prac 3

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/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 connect.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/

Academic Success

Academic Success 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 the Service Connect Portal, 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.

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.

Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the Handbook