

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
WINNIPEG MANITOBA
Department of Psychology

PSYC-4610 – Section 001 – Winter 2018
Topics in Perception

1.0 Calendar description

A research-based course consisting of lectures, demonstrations, and seminars on special topics relating to sensory and perceptual mechanisms in humans and non-humans. The range of topics will vary, depending on particular interests of students and current interests of the instructor.

PREREQUISITES: PSYC-2610(3); PSYC-3611(3) is also recommended.

2.0 Course Information

Instructor: Dr. P. M. Pearson

Office and Phone Number: 4L04B, 786-9853

E-Mail: p.pearson@uwinnipeg.ca

Office Hours: **Anytime** (Call or e-mail for an appointment, if you are short on time)

Time & Location of Lectures: Tues & Thurs 2:30 - 3:45 4M39

3.0 Course Objectives

This course provides an opportunity for students to pursue an in-depth examination of topics relevant to perception and the structures that underlie perceptual processes.

4.0 Evaluation

Evaluation will be based upon: presentations, participation, and written papers. All written materials must be submitted electronically. The grading of all components will be based primarily upon critical thinking and clarity.

Short presentations	5% each – total 15% (10 minutes in length)
Paper describing Topic	5% (1-2 pages in length – due midnight Jan 28th)
Literature Review Presentation	10% (20 minute presentation)
Literature Review Paper	15% (5-7 pages in length – due midnight March 11)
Final Presentation	15% (30 minute presentation)
Final Research Proposal	30% (12-15 pages in length – due midnight April 3)
Participation	10%

5.0 Withdrawal Deadline

The final date to withdraw from this course without academic penalty is **March 14th, 2018**.

6.0 Policy Regarding Missed Assignments/Presentations/Illness

Maximum value of late papers/presentations will be reduced by one letter grade of each day late (e.g. A to A-).

Students are entitled to a rescheduling of or an extension of deadlines for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons (illness, physical disability, or domestic affliction). However, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the date that the work is due, and, if requested, to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. In the event of an emergency, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and a counselor at Student Services (OGM06; 786-9231) as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements can be discussed at the time of occurrence. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions will not be considered.

7.0 Grades

A+ at the instructor's discretion

A 85+

A- 80-84

B+ 75-79

B 70-74

C+ 65-69

C 60-74

D 50-59

F less than 50

These cutoffs are tentative and may be changed in either direction by i) the instructor, ii) the Departmental review Committee, or iii) the Senate, when circumstances warrant.

8.0 Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism, cheating and other academic offenses. Students are encouraged to read the section on Academic Misconduct in the General Calendar. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor.

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>

9.0 Procedures for Appealing Academic Evaluations

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation) within seven working days after notification of the grade. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, the student may wish to consider making a written appeal to the Chair of the Departmental Review Committee. Please consult the Academic Regulations and Policies Section of the General Calendar for information about appeals. <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> A guide to appeals is available from Student Services and the UWSA Office.

10.0 Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility> .

11.0 Additional University Policies

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

Undergraduate students who plan to conduct minimal-risk research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee before commencing data collection. (For greater-than-minimal-risk or Graduate student studies, approval of the UHREB is also required.) Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.”

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect .

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at:

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf> .

Tentative Schedule and Additional Grading Information

Jan 4 – Introductions & Discussion of Class Format

Jan 9 & 11 – Short Presentations (10 min each) – Each student is asked to find 3 research articles (not review papers) on three different topics that would be suitable for a research proposal in this course. These papers should have been published between 2010 and the present. The first page of each of these three papers should be sent to Dr Pearson prior to 2 pm on Jan 9th. In class, each student will present the title and abstract of the papers to the class. Members of the class will be responsible for discussing whether the topic is appropriate for the research proposal, and suggestions regarding possible research proposal including related areas of study that the student may want to familiarize themselves with.

Jan 16 & 18 – Short Presentations (10 min each) – Each student is asked to find 3 research articles (not review papers) and present the abstract to the class. These papers may be on three different topics that would be suitable for a research proposal in this course, OR on a single topic that the student has decided to pursue in the research proposal. The first page of each of these three papers should be sent to Dr Pearson prior to 2 pm on Jan 16th. Members of the class will be responsible for discussing whether the topic is appropriate for the research proposal, and suggestions regarding possible research proposal including related areas of study that the student may want to familiarize themselves with.

Jan 23 & 25 – Short Presentation (10 min each) – “What is my research topic and why is it interesting?” – Each student is responsible for answering this question in a 1 page paper and a short presentation to the class. The aim of this assignment is to ensure that your proposed studies or review topics are clearly within the domain of Perception and that you have chosen a manageable topic. This brief description (i.e. 1-2 pages) of your proposed paper topic should include a listing of at least five references that you plan to use in your literature review and is due before midnight on Jan 28th.

Jan 30 & Feb 1 - Individual Meetings with Dr. Pearson & Feedback on Paper

Feb 6 - March 8 – Literature Review Presentation (20 min each) – Each student will present a 20 minute talk and submit a 5-7 page paper that reviews and critically analyses (compares and contrasts studies) on their chosen topic. This paper should be in APA format and is intended to serve as the future introduction of your research proposal. Generally, an introduction starts with a broad topic and narrows down to research question. It should be organized around topics important to providing the context in which your study is placed, rather than around individual papers. This paper should include appropriate referencing and a reference list that includes a minimum of 10 papers (unless it is a very new field of study). The paper is due before midnight on March 11th. Students wishing earlier feedback should submit their paper earlier.

March 13 – March 29 – Final Presentations – Each student will present a 30 minute talk that describes a complete research proposal – brief background, research question/hypotheses, methodology, and proposed findings and interpretation. The written version of the research proposal (12-15 pages in length) is due midnight April 3rd. Clarity, logic and responsiveness to previous feedback will all contribute to the grade.

April 3 – Make-up presentations in the event of illness.

Note: Keep all notecards, photocopies, drafts, etc. that you use in writing your papers until I turn in your final grade for the semester. I reserve the right to request these materials without any notice.

Participation: The participation grade will be assigned based upon punctuality, attendance and the quality of contributions to the class discussions. Each member of the class is personally responsible for the quality of our time together. Good ideas and a better understanding often come from confusion and having to explain concepts to others, so don't be afraid to speak up if you don't understand what another student is talking about. To participate fully, please contribute to the group without dominating the group discussion and help create a space where others can comfortably share.

Please note that the University is closed on Feb 19 for Louis Riel Day and on March 30 for Good Friday.

No classes are held during Reading Week (Feb 19-23 inclusive)