



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 369 (L01) – Sensation and Perception**  
**Winter 2009**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Charles T. Scialfa	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	ICT 122
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-4951	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	TTh 1100-1215
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

To provide an understanding of:

- basic anatomy and physiology of the visual and auditory and other sensory systems.
- major methods of measuring sensory function in vision and audition (e.g., acuity; pure tone sensitivity).
- classical psychophysical techniques, signal detection theory, and scaling.
- traditional (e.g. Gestalt) and contemporary (e.g., Marr) approaches to object perception.
- major theories of color perception.
- several views of attention and how it is measured behaviorally and physiologically.
- perception of depth and the information affording depth perception.
- motion, and in particular, the subjective impressions of velocity.
- essential concepts in pattern recognition as applied to vision and hearing.
- the interaction of bottom-up and top-down processes in perception.

### **Text**

Because of on-line materials developed to facilitate learning in the course, there is no required text. Many materials are available on-line in web resources developed by Dr. Donald Kline and his students under the PIP program. If you would like to have access to additional, course-related materials in textbook form, you may use...

Goldstein, E.B. (2002). Sensation and Perception. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth

### **Evaluation**

There will be three equally weighted, non-cumulative examinations that will consist of multiple-choice questions. Test 1 is Feb. 12, Test 2 is March 31 and the final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. Your final mark is the arithmetic average of the three exams.

Below you will find the grading system (in percent) that I will use to assign letter grades to each individual test as well as to your final grade for the course. Under no circumstances will the grading system be harsher than that shown here. I do reserve the right, however, to make the

grading system more lenient, if circumstances should warrant such an unexpected show of compassion and mercy.

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Lecture Schedule

Ideally in table format with date of class, topics to be covered, and chapters/readings to be read. Due dates for tests/exams and assignments should be included in this schedule as well.

Date		Lecture Notes Blackboard	PIP Materials <a href="http://www.pip.ucalgary.ca/psyc-369/">www.pip.ucalgary.ca/psyc-369/</a>	Optional Text Chapter
T Jan 13	Methods & Introduction	psyc369.psychophysics 1.ppt	Unit 1.1 - Introduction to Sensation and Perception Unit 1.2 - Measuring Sensitivity Unit 1.3 - Difference Thresholds and Magnitude Estimation	1; Appendix A
R Jan 15	Methods & Introduction	psyc369.psychophysics 1.ppt		
T Jan 20	Vision I	psyc369.visual system 1.ppt psyc369.visual system 2.ppt	Unit 2.1 - The Eye Structure and Function Unit 2.2 - The Retina	2
R Jan 22	Last day for registration and change of registration. No fee refunds after this date. Vision I	psyc369.visual system 4.ppt psyc369.visual system 5.ppt		
T Jan 27	Vision II	psyc369.visual system 5.ppt	Unit 2.3 - Visual Pathways Unit 2.4 - The Visual Brain	3
R Jan 29	Vision II	psyc369.acuity.ppt psyc369.spat freq anal.ppt	Unit 4.1 - Spatial Vision	Appendix B
T Feb 3	Vision II	psyc369.bright spat freq.ppt	Unit 3.1 - Brightness, Lightness, Darkness and	

			Contrast	
R Feb 5	Vision III	None		4
T Feb 10	Vision III	None		4
R Feb 12	Test 1			
T Feb 17	Reading Week – No classes Feb 15-22			
R Feb 19	Reading Week – No classes			
T Feb 24	Form	psyc369.form.ppt	Unit 4.4 - Perceiving Objects, Scenes and Faces	5
R Feb 26	Form			
T Mar 3	Depth	psyc369.depth dist percep.ppt	Unit 4.3 – Percpetion of Location, Depth and Distance	7
R Mar 5	Depth			
T Mar 10	Color	psyc369.colour.ppt	Unit 3.2 – Color Vision Unit 3.3 – Color Vision Deficiencies	6
R Mar 12	Color			
T Mar 17	Motion	psyc369.time and motion.ppt	Unit 4.2 – Perceiving Movement	8
R Mar 19	Motion			
T Mar 24	Attention	psyc369.attention.ppt	None	pp. 130- 136
R Mar 26	Attention			
T Mar 31	Test 2			
R Apr 2	Audition I	psyc369.audition.ppt	Sound:The Auditory System and Pitch	10
T Apr 7	Audition I			
R Apr 9	Audition II	psyc369.audition2.ppt	Perceiving Loudness, Timbre and Location Clinical Aspects of Hearing	11
T Apr 14	Audition II Last day to allocate research participation credits.			
R Apr 16	Speech Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.	psyc369.speech.ppt	The Perception of Speech	12
F Apr 17	Final exams (scheduled by the Registrar)			

Apr 20-30				
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### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. The demand for timeslots may exceed the

supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 16, 2009**.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **January 23, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 17, 2009**.