

# Sensation & Perception

Mondays, 6-9pm, Sidney Smith 2135

## A. Course Information

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**Instructor** Dr Kristie Dukewich  
Sidney Smith Hall, Room 5016C  
Office Hours: Mondays, 12-1:30 &  
Thursdays 9-10:30  
psy280@psych.utoronto.ca

**Teaching Assistants**  
please consult Blackboard >  
My Grades to determine which TA  
you have been assigned to

Claudia Damiano  
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**Course Materials** • *Sensation & Perception, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Bruce E. Goldstein (Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013)  
• [OPTIONAL]: iClicker Remote (see *Participation Points*)

**PreReqs** Prerequisite – PSY100H1/COG250Y1 (formerly UNI250Y) or registered in the Cog. Sci. program  
Note about prerequisites: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met *all* prerequisites listed in the Psychology section of the A&S Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you will be removed. No waivers will be granted.

**Objectives** By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. recognize the difference between sensation and perception;
2. describe the different approaches to perception research;
3. explain the classic paradigms used in psychophysics and recognize their appropriate application;
4. analyze how indirect measures of sensation or perception are interpreted by the field;
5. describe the basic evidence-based knowledge for each of the different senses;
6. recognize parallels in structure, function, or processing across the different senses;
7. critique the assumptions, limitations and investigations of perception;
8. summarize how the different senses interact with each other to change perception;
9. use your knowledge of the function of the senses and perception to solve real-world problems;
10. engage with other students to facilitate learning!

**Blackboard & Lecture Notes** Log in to Blackboard (<https://portal.utoronto.ca>) to view the course webpage. I will post a pdf of my lecture slides under Blackboard > Lecture Slides the evening before a lecture. Please keep in mind **that my lectures slides are to help me present & can facilitate your note-taking**, but they are not meant to serve as a replacement for coming to class & will not be effective study aids without your lecture notes to support them. My lecture slides will be sparse in text, & in order to facilitate critical thinking I will eliminate some slides from the pdfs. As such, regular attendance will be helpful for achieving a good grade.

**You are responsible for all announcements posted to Blackboard & made in class.** Please check Blackboard frequently for updates, & be sure to get information from classmates about announcements made in lecture in your absence.

**Classroom Behavior** Please be respectful of your classmates & me. This includes **arriving to class on time, staying seated except during breaks & activities, & avoiding distracting behavior like texting or surfing the internet.** On occasion, you might feel it is necessary to say something to a classmate. I won't police the class. However, if I find your talking distracting I will politely ask you to stop talking.

## Email Policy

Please use the website Discussion Board for content-related questions. This way, all students will benefit from the reply, whether from the instructor, TAs, or your fellow students. If you have questions about an assignment, you should request a meeting with your assigned TA. If you need to get in touch with Dr. Dukewich for any other reason, please email psy280@psych.utoronto.ca. Replies may take 1-2 business days. **In all cases, if your email requires a response greater than 1-2 sentences, we will ask you to schedule a meeting or visit office hours.**

## B. Methods of Evaluation

| Evaluation                    | Appraisal Tool | Points      | Dates   |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---|
| Participation Questions       |                | 3%          | January 12 <sup>th</sup> – March 30 <sup>th</sup> inclusive |
| PeerWise Questions (4 x .5%)  |                | 2%          | February 1 <sup>st</sup> & April 2 <sup>nd</sup>            |
| Term Test (in-lecture)        |                | 34%         | February 2nd (6-9pm)  |
| Turnitin.com submission       |                | 1%          | March 18 <sup>th</sup>                                      |
| Term Paper                    |                | 20%         | March 25 <sup>th</sup>                                      |
| Final                         |                | 40%         | TBA: April Exam Period                                      |
| <b>Base Points Available:</b> |                | <b>100%</b> |   |
| <b>Bonus Assignment:</b>      |                | <b>2%</b>   | <b>March 11<sup>th</sup></b>                                |

## Exams

The midterm & final exam will consist of **multiple-choice & short answer questions**. Both exams will be based on lecture material & the required readings. Short-answer questions will require a ~1-5 sentence response based on the complexity of the question and may also require the creation of a visual aid (e.g., diagram or graph), or labeling a figure. The final exam will be **cumulative for lectures & non-cumulative for required readings**. On exam day, please bring your Student card or other picture ID & be sure to arrive on time since no additional time is given to students who arrive late. If you fail to fill in the computer answer sheet with your ID number or last name you will lose 2% of your exam grade. If you fail to fill in the computer answer sheet with your answers (i.e. you haven't transferred the answers from the booklet to the bubble sheet) by the end of the test period, you will take a zero for the MC section of the exam.

**Midterms will be available for review during exam review sessions scheduled in the two weeks after the Reading Break.** The schedule will be announced on Blackboard shortly after grades are released.

## Participation Points

Participation is evaluated by the proportion of participation questions you answer, regardless of accuracy, beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>. There are two ways to earn participation marks; via iClicker, or using the paper option. If you choose to use an iClicker, please complete registration on Blackboard by following the link to "iClicker Registration" on the Portal Homepage for Psy280. Participation marks earned by iClicker will be updated within 48 hours after a class. You should check My Grades regularly to make sure your responses are accurately collected so that you can identify and correct any technical difficulties before they seriously impact your participation mark. **Note: Using another person's iClicker is absolutely not permitted for any reason.**

If you choose to pursue the paper option, you must write down your answers to questions presented in **lecture on a full 8 x 11" piece of paper with your name, student ID number, & the date**. To get full participation, you must also write down the full answer to the question. For example: "A: working memory". You must turn in your paper within 5 minutes of the end of lecture. Participation marks earned by the **paper option will be updated at the end of each month**.

**There is no way to recoup missed participation marks**, including for medical reasons or late registration. When you're not present, you're not participating....but you can miss up to 15% without penalty. This is the formula for calculating your participation grade:

$$\text{your mark out of } 3\% = \left( \frac{3}{\text{total \# of questions asked} \times 0.85} \right) \times \# \text{ you answered to a max of } 3\%$$

### PeerWise Questions

**Writing good multiple-choice (MC) questions makes you aware of what you know, but it can also help you identify what you don't know.** The best MC questions require students to apply their knowledge (rather than simply recognize definitions), and have distractor options that represent common misconceptions or points of confusion. I always tell students to write MC questions as a study tool. This year I'm going to give you course credit for it, and I am providing a way for you to share questions with each other to test yourselves as practice. PeerWise is a website where you can write and answer MC questions. **To sign-in, please visit [peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?utoronto\\_ca](http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?utoronto_ca):**

- course ID: 10449
- your identifier: your student ID # *as it appears in Blackboard > My Grades*

You must submit 2 MC questions to PeerWise the day before the midterm (due February 1st before 11:59pm), and 2 MC questions prior to the last day of classes (due April 2<sup>nd</sup> before 11:59pm). Each question you write will be worth .5% to a maximum of 2%; **however, please feel free to write more than 4 questions!** Each question must have 5 options, with one correct answer indicated and an explanation of the correct answer as well as why the other distractors are wrong. Missing one of these components may negate credit for the question.

### Bonus Assignment

You have the opportunity to earn 2% bonus toward your final grade. The bonus assignment involves a short exercise that is meant to prepare for writing the essay. Details about the assignment are described in the document on Blackboard > Bonus Assignment Guidelines & Submission > BonusAssignment: Version1 or BonusAssignment: Version2. The bonus assignment is entirely option, and students who have successfully completed the assignment will have 2% added to their final course grade.

**You should note that to be credited for completing the assignment, you MUST complete the version of the assignment that you have been pre-assigned to. Your pre-assignment is listed in Blackboard > My Grades, and you can find Students have been assigned.**

### Term Paper

The written assignment is a 1200 word essay ( $\pm 150$  words) on crossmodal interactions. **Details regarding the essay are available on Blackboard under Assignments > Essay.pdf**, and will be discussed at various points in the semester (see schedule).

Essays should be submitted in a Word Document (.doc or .docx) on Blackboard > Essay Submissions. Late essays are subject to a 3% late penalty per day or *part thereof* for a maximum of 5 days. The penalty is a flat deduction, such that if you score 75% on the essay that is 1 day late, your final grade will be 72%.

**Any questions about the assignment should be directed toward your assigned TA.**

### Turnitin.com submission

**I ask students to submit to turnitin.com because it can help students identify unintentional plagiarism in their work.** To that end, you will be able to view your originality report for your essay and submit multiple drafts. This allows you to determine if there are any problematic sections of your essay, edit, and re-submit before you submit your final draft for grading. **To encourage you to use the tool to improve your essay, I have allocated 1% for submitting a completed 1<sup>st</sup> draft before March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm (only complete drafts are protected from accusations of plagiarism).** I will then discuss how you can use this report to improve your essay in the following lecture. Students that fail to submit their final draft to turnitin.com and need to be contacted to do so will have a 5% flat late penalty applied to their paper.

### Opting out of Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

**Students who object to submitting their work to turnitin.com in principle can opt out of submission.** If you wish to opt out of submitting work to turnitin.com, you must do the following:

1. Send an email no later than March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59pm indicating your wish to opt out, and explaining your objections
2. Submit hand-written notes for the essay, including a rough outline & notes on the publication you've selected

## C. Course Policies

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|---|---|
| Acceptable Documentation                    | <p>Acceptable documentation can come in two forms: medical verification of illness or injury, or a request for academic consideration from your college registrar.</p> <p>For <b>uncomplicated medical issues</b>, students may submit an official <i>Verification of Student Illness or Injury</i> dated +/- 1 day of the missed assignment or test indicating a condition that is at least moderately serious &amp; including start date &amp; anticipated end date for the condition.</p> <p>For <b>more complex medical issues</b> (e.x. long-term illness or injury), <b>non-medical issues</b> (e.x. family emergencies) &amp; <b>any situations for which the above criteria for medical documentation cannot be met</b>, students must meet with their College Registrar. If the registrar is satisfied with the documentation provided, s/he can contact me directly to ask for special consideration on the student's behalf. This will also be considered acceptable documentation.</p>  |
| Assignments: Extensions, Late & Sick Policy | <p><b>Extensions on the essay are extremely unlikely and will be granted only under rare and exceptional circumstances, and only if you have acceptable documentation.</b> In the event that you are too sick to submit your paper on the due date, you will have <u>5 days</u> to submit an electronic copy of the essay via Blackboard &gt; Essay Submission. Late penalties will be applied until you have submitted acceptable documentation.</p>   |
| Missed Term Test Policy                     | <p>If a student misses the term test &amp; can provide <b>acceptable documentation</b>, the weight of the term test will be transferred to his/her final exam.</p>  |
| Missed Final Policy                         | <p>Students who miss the final exam for reasons entirely beyond their control <b>may petition the Faculty of Arts &amp; Science to write a deferred exam at a much later date.</b> The student must obtain documentation &amp; go immediately to their College Registrar's Office for advice on formal petitions.</p>   |
| Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism            | <p>The University of Toronto's <i>Code of Behavior on Academic Matters</i> outlines the behaviors that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. <b>You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document.</b> Please visit <a href="http://utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/">utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/</a> for more information on your responsibilities as a student.</p> <p>Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing (or "stealing") of another writer's words and ideas, and minor changes in the wording here and there are not sufficient to avoid plagiarism. Self-plagiarism is also strictly forbidden. <b>To better understand plagiarism, please refer to the following websites:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html">http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html</a><br/><a href="http://www.plagiarism.org/">http://www.plagiarism.org/</a></p> <p><b>These websites will be used as the standard for identifying cases of plagiarism.</b> If after consulting these websites you are still in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor or TA. <b>Claims such as "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.</b></p> |
| Appeals                                     | <p>Students who have a complaint about the way a piece of term work was marked <b>must first approach the TA to discuss their concern.</b> If the student isn't satisfied by the way the meeting went s/he can write an appeal letter to Dr. Dukewich, <b>submitted through your assigned TA.</b></p> <p>All requests for a re-grade must be submitted in writing within two weeks of the exam or assignment being made available for student viewing. <b>Only requests that include adequate written justification of an error in the original grading will be considered.</b> Assignment appeals must also include a student-completed marking rubric, &amp; written justification for any differences between your completed rubric &amp; the TA's completed rubric.</p> <p>Dr. Dukewich will only review appeals that fit the above criteria. Please see Blackboard &gt; Assignments &gt; Appeals.pdf for an example of an acceptable assignment appeal. <b>A legitimate request will result in the entire exam or assignment being re-graded. Your overall grade may be raised, lowered, or it may stay the same.</b></p>  |
| Access & Diversity                          | <p>Students with diverse learning styles &amp; needs are <b>most welcome in this course!</b> In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me or contact Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; <a href="http://accessibility.utoronto.ca">accessibility.utoronto.ca</a>.</p>   |

## D. Tentative Course Schedule

This plan is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

| Date   | Topic  | Reading  | Notes   |
|--------|--|--|---|
| Jan 5  | Welcome, Introduction                                  | Ch 1   |   |
| Jan 12 | Physiology   | Ch 2   |   |
| Jan 19 | Early Vision   | Ch 3   | essay assignment guidelines will be discussed                                     |
| Jan 26 | Mid-Level Vision                                       | Ch 4   |   |
| Feb 2  | in-class term test from 6pm-9pm: Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 |  | 6pm-9pm, location TBA – check My Grades for your assigned location                |
| Feb 9  | High-Level Vision                                      | Ch 5   | essay writing instructions will be discussed                                      |
| Feb 16 | **** READING BREAK – don't come to class ****          |  |   |
| Feb 23 | Color  | Ch 9   | Midterm review<br>Check Blackboard for times/locations                            |
| Mar 2  | Depth & Size   | Ch 10  | Midterm review<br>Check Blackboard for times/locations                            |
| Mar 9  | Sound & Sound Localization                             | Ch 11 & 12   | submit optional bonus assignment<br>before March 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm       |
| Mar 16 | The Cutaneous Senses                                   | Ch 14  | submit essay to turnitin.com before<br>March 18 <sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm           |
| Mar 23 | The Chemical Senses                                    | Ch 15  | Essay Due to turnitin.com & Blackboard before<br>March 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm |
| Mar 30 | Crossmodal Interactions                                | no reading ☺   |   |
| TBA    | Final Exam   | Cumulative for lectures + chapters 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 & 15 |   |

The final exam will be scheduled during the regular April exam period (April 9–30 inclusive). To avoid an unexcused absence, please do not make travel plans during the period.

## E. Scholarship of teaching & learning

Scientific knowledge of human behavior obviously depends upon research with humans. University students contribute substantially to psychological sciences by their participation in research. **Dr. Dukewich is performing a research project in this course that examines the learning outcomes related to assignment design.** This research project is being facilitated by Dr. Andrea Williams, a lecturer in writing at University College. Information on this project can be found in the Learning Portal (Blackboard) webpage for the course under “Research Study Information”.

The study will involve using your anonymous course data to understand how assignments impact your learning. **You are not required to do anything above and beyond the existing course requirements.** However, if you would prefer that we did not use your data for the purposes of this study, you may withdraw your data at any time, without consequence or risk of penalty, up until one month after the final grades in the course have been posted to ROSI. **Dr. Dukewich will not know the identity of students who have chosen to participate, nor those students who have chosen to opt-out or withdraw. Participation is entirely voluntary, and will in no way affect your grade in the course.**

Dr. Williams will be in-lecture on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> to go through informed consent and answer questions. However, you may contact Dr. Williams at any time by phone or by email if you have further questions or concerns about this study. Dr. Williams can be contacted by email at [al.williams@utoronto.ca](mailto:al.williams@utoronto.ca), or by phone at 416-978-8150.