

**Perception. Psych 255. Instructor: Hiu-Mei Chow. Semester: 2017 Summer**

**When/Where: MW 10am-1pm W02-0107**

**Recommended text: Sensation and Perception, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wolfe et al., (e-books or older editions are okay)**

**Email address: [umb.perception@gmail.com](mailto:umb.perception@gmail.com); Office hour: McCormack-4-242 (Mon 1-2pm or by appointment only)**

**Everything is on Blackboard!**

**Please note that this course, Psych 255, used to be numbered Psych 355. If you have previously taken Psych 355 and received credit for it, you cannot take Psych 255 and receive credit again.**

Why study perception? Our appreciation of things happening around us in the world depends on our ability to 'sense' them. Our perceptual experience does not only rely on sensory organs to pick up information, but also processing that happens in our brains! It involves a fascinating interplay between the senses as well as brain regions, which is often taken for granted. Studying perception allows us to understand ways to restore perceptual experience and return to our normal daily life when perception fails.

Course objectives: Through this course, you will learn about core findings on the basic perceptual qualities of each major sense and how sensory information is processed in the brain. You will also explore the similarities and differences across the senses. Ultimately you will apply what you learn in class to appreciate perceptual phenomena in everyday life better.

Want a good grade? 1. Read before you come to class 2. Although attendance is not required, avoid missing any class (what we cover during activities or presentations might appear in quizzes or exams!) 3. Plan ahead (e.g. if you know you are going to be busy towards the end of the semester, consider doing your presentation/writing early in the semester) 4. Utilize resources (e.g. free textbook website: <http://sites.sinauer.com/wolfe4e/>, come to office hours, form study groups)

**Grading & Assignment:**

	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Group?</b>
Exam	40	Multiple choice and short answer questions, non-cumulative, 2 exams x 20 points each, no official study guide but I will review materials the class before exam. <b>Exam dates: 6/19, 7/10</b>	No
Study Guide	10	You will make your own study guide for the exam! 2 study guides x 5 points each. <b>Submission dates: 6/19, 7/10</b>	No
Activity/HW sheet	40	Activity sheets will be distributed in class and should be submitted the following class. Part of the activity sheet will be done in class, but it is expected you will spend time outside class reviewing (new and learned) materials to finish the rest of the assignment. They are meant to help you learn so it's okay to work with 1-2 classmates. (5 points x 8)	your choice
Presentation	10	Once throughout the course, you will be the teacher - present and critique scholarly findings of a study/concept/phenomenon related to topics covered in the module but not discussed in depth in class. 20mins presentation + 5mins Q&A. Both the content and oral communication skills will be evaluated. Potential topics will be provided. <b>Presentation date: 7/12</b>	yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>		

Extra credit (EC) options: 1. Find a recent study (published within the last 12 month) related to what we learn in class and in 100 words summarize its findings and another 100 words explain why it is important. You can submit up to one article for each exam. (Max: 2 points x 2 module = 4 points) **Deadline: Exam day.** 2. Participate in experiments related to Perception and answer 5Ws (What is studied, Why study, How to study, What have they found so far, Why should we be interested?). You have to submit the 5Ws; merely participating in experiments does not give you any points! Relevant research opportunity is posted on blackboard. (Max: 2 points x 3 experiments = 6 points). **Deadline: 7/12 (last day of class).** Both extra credit options have to be done independently (not group work).

## General Policies:

*Class attendance or lateness:* You are responsible for your learning! There is no penalty for missing or coming late to a class. However, you are responsible for the consequences of missing / being late for a class with quizzes, activities, and exams. No extra time will be given if you show up to class late. One way to work around this is to plan your commute and leave enough time to come to school in case of traffic or train delays.

*Delay in submitting an assignment / Missing an exam:* Please do not ask for deadline extension or make-up for any missed/delayed assessment, unless you have an official University reason (i.e. a doctor's note, or religious holidays that you observe). If so, please let me know as soon as possible. I reserve the right to ask for documentation. This is to uphold fairness to our class so that no one is given favorable treatment.

*Academic honesty:* Please take group as well as individual responsibility for honorable behavior. Both you and I should make every effort to prevent and avoid academic misconduct, and report acts of misconduct that we witness. Any student who engages in an act of Academic Dishonesty, like cheating or plagiarizing a paper (copying from any source without quotes and referencing is plagiarizing), will receive a failing grade for that assignment/test and in most cases a failing grade for the course. To avoid violating academic honesty, 1. Learn more about University policies on this: [http://www.umb.edu/life\\_on\\_campus/policies/code/](http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/policies/code/) 2. Learn about plagiarism and take steps to avoid it. 3. Avoid submitting the same work to more than one class, unless you obtain a permission from the instructors.

*Incomplete:* Incompletes are meant to be used in cases of extreme medical or personal emergency when the majority of course work have already been completed. These are the only situations in which I will even consider granting an incomplete. If a situation of this type should arise I would need to be contacted as soon as possible so that a contract could be negotiated to outline what work would need to be finished and in what time frame. I reserve the right to ask for documentation of the emergency should the need arise.

*Special services:* If you have a disability and feel you will need accommodations in order to complete course requirements, please contact the Ross Center for Disability Services (Campus Center UL Rm 211; 617-287-7430).

## Group-work Policies:

Please form into 3 groups of a maximum of 4 students per group. Throughout the course, there will be plenty of opportunity of interacting with your classmates but you should aim at forming groups and finalizing a topic of interest before Exam 1 (6/19). Please consult me when choosing the topic of interest. There will be in class consultation time set aside on 7/10 for 'semi-final' presentation preparation, but it is expected that you should have already gathered materials for the presentation.

You will get one grade for the entire group. Both content and oral skills will be evaluated for presentation so please make sure everyone in the group gets some stage time. To ensure everyone is taking his/her responsibility, you might be asked to fill in a form to rate contribution of yourself and your group-mates. If there is huge discrepancy between ratings, I will make corresponding adjustment to the final grade of the assignment of individual students.

Tips for working in groups: Be appreciative and learn from each other. Start preparation early (ideally at the beginning of the module you are going to present, you should decide on a topic and start researching). I understand it might be hard to meet up as a group, please consider the followings: meeting right before or after class, emails, teleconferencing (e.g. facetime/Skype/Google hangout). Make your meetings fast and efficient by setting an agenda, preparing, dividing up work, and reaching conclusions or setting goals before ending the meeting. Email copy everyone in your group when asking questions, discussing the project and submitting assignment.

Schedule:

Week	Date	Lecture	Submit	Supp Textbook (Wolfe)
1	5/31	Course overview & Basic skills & Visual system intro		1,2
2	6/5	Low-level vision (contrast, spatial frequency, color)	Activity 1	3,5
2	6/7	Low-level vision (motion, depth)	Activity 2	6, 8
3	6/12	Mid- to High-level vision (what & where)	Activity 3	4
3	6/14	High-level vision (faces) & Review 1	Activity 4	
4	6/19	Exam 1 + Hearing (psychoacoustics)	Study Guide 1	9,10
4	6/21	Hearing (what & where) & Vestibular		9,10
5	6/26	Touch	Activity 5	13
5	6/28	Taste/Olfaction/Flavor	Activity 6	14,15
6	7/3	Attention	Activity 7	7
6	7/5	Multisensory Processing	Activity 8	
7	7/10	Exam 2 + Presentation preparation	Study Guide 2	
7	7/12	Presentations + Course wrap up (Application of Perception)		

Special dates:

6/1 Drop deadline; 6/6 Add/Change deadline; 6/23 Pass/Fail/Withdrawal deadline  
 6/1 100% refund deadline; 6/6 50% refund deadline