



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF
HUMAN SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

UNIT OUTLINE

PSY247: Perception I

2011, Semester 1

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UNIT OUTLINE

Course:	PSY247 Perception I
Year and Semester:	2011, Semester 1
Unit convenor:	Dr. Kevin Brooks
Prerequisites:	Pass or higher in [PSY104 + PSY105 + (STAT170 or STAT171 or PSY122)] OR Admission to G.Dip.Psych.
Credit Points:	3

STUDENTS IN THIS UNIT SHOULD READ THIS UNIT OUTLINE CAREFULLY AT THE START OF THE SEMESTER. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIT. IF ANYTHING IN IT IS UNCLEAR, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR TUTOR.

ABOUT THIS UNIT

What is Perception?

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. This unit investigates the mechanisms of perception through all of the major senses, giving special attention to the best-understood sense of all: vision. We will explore aspects from the physiological bases of the senses to the rich and complex experiences and illusions that they produce. We will seek answers to questions such as "How do 3D movies like 'AVATAR' and MagicEye® pictures work?", "How do we know which way is up?", "Why are some people colour blind?", "What do wine-tasters know that I don't?", "How can we tell the pitch of a musical note?", and "How do we tell our friends from strangers?" to name but a few.

The aim of this course is to build upon the introductory lectures on Perception that were presented in PSY 105: Introduction to Psychology II, treating previously covered topics in more depth and introducing new topics. It is also intended to serve as preparation for PSY 342: Perception II, and for honours projects concerned with perceptual issues. Even for those not planning to undertake further study in perception, perceptual principles impact on many different areas of psychology and an understanding of these issues is important for many psychological professions such as neuropsychology, forensic psychology, human factors and ergonomics, neuroscience, applied psychology, and many more. As such, Perception is seen as an essential component of any Psychology degree by the Australian Psychological Society and other accrediting bodies around the world. Perception is the oldest branch of experimental psychology, and arguably the most thoroughly understood of brain functions.

PSY247 Unit Overview

Early lectures by Drs. Kevin Brooks, Eugene Chekaluk and Peter Wenderoth will concentrate on the low-level mechanisms of perception through a variety of senses, with special attention given to the details of auditory and visual perception. In later lectures, Drs. Kevin Brooks, Mark Williams and Anina Rich will cover some higher-level issues, such as the perception of faces and objects and the issue of multisensory integration.

Practicals will supplement and build upon the lecture material, allowing a hands-on approach to perceptual phenomena and their explanation. Another aim of the unit is to teach generic (general) skills. In practical classes, students will learn how to use computers and will practice oral communication. Aptitude for written communication and problem-solving skills will be refined in practicals and demonstrated in examinations through short-answer essay and multiple-choice questions. Web/IT skills will be used in practicals, as well as in accessing the parts of the course housed on the unit's Blackboard web page.

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.

TEACHING STAFF

Your practical tutors will assist you with any questions you have about the unit. The Psychology Office staff will also assist you with any questions related to the administration of the unit (e.g. assignment of practical groups, applications for special consideration, supplementary examination arrangements, etc.). For specific questions related to the lectures where the tutor is unable to help, students should contact the relevant lecturer. Details of staff consultation hours can be found on the notice board in the Foyer of C3A.

Students experiencing difficulty in this unit should approach their tutor in the first instance. If he/she is unable to help, you may contact the unit chair. On more wide-ranging academic issues you should make an appointment to see the Dean of Students. Those with personal problems should

see a Student Counsellor. On matters pertaining to regulations, the Registrar's Office should be consulted or within the Department, Dr. Julia Irwin for Undergraduate Studies and Dr. Judi Homewood for Postgraduate matters. Students with disabilities who have problems within the Department should consult Radha Pathy, the Disability Liaison Officer. Those with academic grievances should contact Dr. Jennifer Batchelor. If your difficulties cannot be resolved by these members of staff you should consult the Head of Department.

Course Convenor

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Other Lecturing Staff

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Additional Tutors

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Administrative Assistants

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CLASSES

The course will comprise lectures and practicals 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.

Students enrolled in the External Composite attendance mode (Xc1) can access the iLecture recording of the lecture, but must attend the compulsory tutorial/practical class.

The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at:

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>

Lectures

Weekly lectures will be held on Mondays from 4-6pm in W5B MACTH.

Practicals

The practical program will run from Weeks 3-6 and 8-11 inclusive, with all sessions held in room C4A 335. You will be required to attend four 2-hour practicals throughout the semester. Students will be divided into 10 groups (numbered 1-10) and to two streams (labelled A and B). Stream A will attend one practical in each of weeks 3, 5, 8 and 10. Stream B will attend one practical in each of weeks 4, 6, 9 and 11. The content of the practical classes is identical for both streams.

Topics

Weeks	Topic
3 & 4	Illusions & Aftereffects
5 & 6	Spatial Vision
8 & 9	Mid-Session Test Feedback
10 & 11	Binocular Vision

Practical class times are as follows:

Group	Day	Time	Weeks		Location	Tutor
			Stream A	Stream B		
1	Monday	9-11am	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	HF
2	Monday	6-8pm	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	SG
3	Tuesday	9-11am	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	SG
4	Tuesday	4-6pm	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	LC
5	Wednesday	9-11am	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	HF
6	Wednesday	11am-1pm	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	BJ
7	Thursday	11am-1pm	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	PW
8	Thursday	1-3pm	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	EC
9	Thursday	5-7pm	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	LC
10	Friday	12noon-2pm	3, 5, 8 & 10	4, 6, 9 & 11	C4A 335	BJ

Due to tight restrictions on the availability of resources in the laboratory and to health and safety regulations it is highly recommended that you attend the practical to which you have been assigned.

Although students may be permitted to attend a tutorial that they were not assigned to if there happens to be ample room in the class, most classes are likely to be full. In cases of overcrowding, those not attending their assigned group will be asked to leave. Under these circumstances, no special provisions will be made for attendance at an alternative practical class.

Changes to all units can be made on-line via eStudent. After week 2, no further changes will be entertained unless supporting documentation about the reason for changing is provided and there is space in the tutorial you wish to change into. If a space in your preferred practical timeslot is not available and someone in that class is willing to swap with you, you must do so together online. Allocation to stream A or B is done manually by the Psychology Office staff and announced in a draft document on Blackboard and on the notice boards in the corridor of level three in building C3A at the end of week 1. Changes may be possible after this date, but it should be noted that **TUTORS AND LECTURERS ARE UNABLE TO HELP WITH THIS.** If a student wishes to change streams s/he must find someone willing to swap with them and both must go together to the Psychology Office before the end of Week 2. The Blackboard discussion board feature may be useful in identifying such individuals. A final list of practical groups and streams will be posted on Blackboard on the afternoon/evening of Friday, Week 2, and all students should check this document, as changes may have been made. Note: the first practical session is on the following Monday at 9am.

Except for under extenuating circumstances, changes will not be permitted after this date, and students may not change their practical session without authorisation by the Psychology Office Staff.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

Required Text

Snowden, R., Thompson, P., & Troscianko, T. *Basic vision: an introduction to visual perception*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

This is a very accessible text that is always popular with students. It introduces technical concepts in an easy-to-grasp fashion, and is an excellent introduction to the discipline of visual perception. It will be an indispensable resource for students on this course.

Recommended Text

Mather, G. *Foundations of Sensation & Perception, 2nd Edition*. East Sussex: Psychology Press, 2008.

This text offers broader coverage of perception in general, and will be especially useful for topics outside of vision, which Snowden *et al.* do not cover. It also offers more technical detail than Snowden *et al.* in certain areas, allowing the conscientious student to deepen their understanding of the topics that are covered in the required text.

Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading:

Lecture	Date	Topic (Lecturer)	Assigned Reading	Also Relevant
1	21/02/11	Course Introduction (KB)	Mather, Ch 1	Snowden et al., Ch 0, 12
2	28/02/11	Sound, Ear & Brain (EC)	Mather, Ch 4	
3	07/03/11	Auditory Perception (EC) Body Senses (KB)	Mather, Ch 5/ Mather, Ch 3	
4	14/03/11	Body Senses (KB) Chemical Senses (KB)	Mather, Ch 3/ Mather, Ch 2	
5	21/03/11	Light, Eye & Brain (PW)	Snowden Ch 1	Mather Ch 6-7
6	28/03/11	Spatial Vision (PW)	Snowden et al., Ch 2-4	Mather Ch 8
7	04/04/11	Mid-Session Test (KB)	-	-
8	02/05/11	Depth Perception (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch 7	Mather, Ch 10
9	09/05/11	Motion Perception (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch 6	Mather, Ch 11
10	16/05/11	Colour Vision (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch 5	Mather, Ch 12
11	23/05/11	Object Perception (MW) Multisensory Processing (AR)	Mather, Ch 9, Mather, Ch 13	
12	30/05/11	Face Perception (KB)	Snowden et al., Ch 10	

Additional Reading

Additional material may be assigned from other textbooks and key papers where appropriate. Specific details will be given at the beginning of each lecture.

Access to Assigned Reading Material

Both the required and the recommended texts are available for purchase at the University Bookshop, in addition to the copies available at the library, in the main collection and on e-reserve. Where availability is limited, students should consider using the first edition of the Mather book (entitled "Foundations of Perception"), of which the library has additional copies. Although the 2nd edition features some revisions in some areas, the 1st edition is just as good for most topics. Efforts have been made to put relevant chapters of Mather on e-reserve where possible (subject to copyright restrictions, etc. – see table below for dates of availability). Chapter 1 will be available at the start of the unit, and the schedule of availability on eReserve for the rest of the semester is given below.

You should also note that at the time of writing, Mather's Ch 6 (covering material from lectures in week 5) is available online as a free sample. It is recommended that students download this. Go to <http://www.psypress.com/mather/> and click on "Sample Chapter".

eReserve Schedule

Title	Edition	Chapter	Relevant lecture	Available	
				From...	To...
Foundations of Sensation & Perception	2 nd	1	1	09/02/11	23/02/11
Foundations of Perception	1 st	4	2	09/02/11	23/02/11
Foundations of Sensation & Perception	2 nd	5	3	10/03/11	15/03/11
Foundations of Perception	1 st	2 & 3	4	10/03/11	15/03/11
Foundations of Sensation & Perception	2 nd	7	5	30/03/11	13/04/11
Foundations of Perception	1 st	8	6	30/03/11	13/04/11
Foundations of Perception	1 st	10	8	28/04/11	04/05/11
Foundations of Sensation & Perception	2 nd	11	9	28/04/11	04/05/11
Foundations of Perception	1 st	12	10	19/05/11	23/06/11
Foundations of Sensation & Perception	2 nd	9 & 13	11	19/05/11	23/06/11

UNIT WEB PAGE

This unit will be supported by a Blackboard web page, available at: <http://learn.mq.edu.au>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The aim of this unit is to familiarize you with basic phenomena, research findings and theories in Perception using all of the major senses. You will acquire knowledge of the physiology of sensory systems and the phenomenology of perception, and gain an understanding of the mechanisms and processes that link the two.

GRADUATE CAPABILITIES DEVELOPED

In addition to discipline-based learning outcomes, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills in a range of areas, developing key graduate capabilities. One of the aims of this unit is that students develop their skills in the following:

- Foundation skills of literacy, numeracy and information technology;*
- Communication skills;*
- Critical analysis skills;*
- Problem-solving skills.*

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

This unit is taught through lectures and practicals with support from web-based resources such as Blackboard, including the online discussion board. While lectures are useful principally for introducing new concepts and knowledge, practicals allow more direct interactions between instructor and students. They are your opportunity to enhance your understanding further by participating in activities and asking questions. The Blackboard discussion board also allows students to discuss topics in greater depth, and may also feature contributions by staff members when there appears to be confusion amongst the student body.

The lecture schedule set out above on page 5 is a guide only, and is intended to be flexible. On occasion, more time will be spent on certain topics if additional explanation is required. As such, material from one lecture may overlap into the next, where necessary.

Blackboard

Students should check the Blackboard web site at regular intervals for announcements, voluntary online quizzes, lecture notes, terminology lists, examples of illusions and perceptual phenomena in picture, video and sound files and other supplementary learning materials. It will also feature a discussion board on which students may converse about course material, or any other legitimate business related to PSY247. Links to iLecture, which will be available in audio and video format, will be included. A document entitled “How to Pass the Exam,” containing advice on study and examination technique, will be provided on Blackboard, and always proves very useful to students. It is recommended that students visit this site regularly and make full use of the facilities.

What does it take to do well in PSY247?

Students are expected to pay close attention to all lectures and to take notes to aid their retention of the material covered. Although iLecture will be invaluable when attendance is physically impossible, it is recommended that students attend lectures, as there are some aspects of the course that cannot be replicated through such media. Reading assigned during each lecture should be completed close to the date of the relevant lecture. Review of the material (individually, or in group sessions) in the student’s own time will be essential to consolidate knowledge and enhance understanding. Attendance of, and active participation in practicals is also mandatory. Worksheets distributed during practicals are assessed and need to be completed and handed in during the same practical.

In addition, other learning resources will be made available, such as lists of key terminology and online quizzes, run through Blackboard. A document entitled “How to Pass the Exam,” containing advice on study and examination technique, will be provided on Blackboard, and always proves very useful to students.

It should be noted that according to Senate Guidelines, workloads should involve 3 hours per credit point per week. This results in 9 hours per week (including lectures and practicals) for a 3 credit point unit such as PSY247.

Note: Assessment will be based on the successful understanding of material from lectures, practicals and from the assigned reading. Please note that rote learning alone will not be a successful strategy, as the assessments will test for deeper appreciation of the course material in a variety of formats. Simply remembering the “facts” will not suffice. Students need to demonstrate their understanding of the principles, and demonstrate the ability to apply such understanding in new contexts.

What material is examinable?

Obviously, the exact details of the questions to be asked in the examinations will not be released in advance. However, questions will come from topics covered during lectures. Where additional information on these topics is supplied in the assigned reading, this should also be considered examinable. The examinations will not feature questions on topics not covered during lectures even if they are included in the assigned reading.

Statement on Academic Courtesy

It is the right of each student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please make an effort to arrive to class on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please enter the lecture theatre quietly via the back entrance to minimise disruption. Although some lecturers may allow questions during lectures, talking between students is often disruptive and is strongly discouraged. Phones, pagers, and other electronic devices that produce noise must be turned off

prior to entering class. Likewise, all lecturers and students are expected to display appropriate academic behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The assessment tasks for this course are designed specifically to test for the knowledge and understanding of aspects of Perception. Multiple-choice questions test a range of different skills, including recall and the ability to apply your knowledge and understanding to novel examples. Short-answer essays will encourage you to generate concise and thorough explanations in your own prose, testing communication skills. Worksheets are designed to allow the student to communicate their own ideas and to apply perceptual principles while exploring several phenomena first-hand. There are three separate modes of assessment for this course:

1. 1hr (+10mins reading time) Mid-session Test (20 multiple choice questions [MCQs], 10 “fill-in-the-blanks” questions [FBQs] and 1 short essay question [SEQ]).
This exam will assess all topics covered before the mid-semester break. It will take the place of the lecture in week 7 in the Macquarie Theatre (W5B MACTH). All students will sit the exam at the same time.
Worth 25% of final grade (MCQs 10%, FBQs 7.5%, SEQs 7.5%).
2. 2hr (+10mins reading time) Final Exam (40 MCQs, 20 FIBs and 1 SEQ).
This exam will assess only the aspects of the course on vision, i.e. weeks 1 and 5-12. The time and location for this exam will be timetabled centrally, and announced later in the semester.
Worth 60% of final grade (MCQs 30%, FIBs 15%, SEQ 15%).
3. Practical Worksheets (each comprising 10 questions). Various practical topics.
NB: Worksheets must be completed and handed in during the practical that you attend. Worksheets will not be distributed or accepted at other times.
Worth 15% of final grade. (5% per worksheet for student’s 3 highest scoring worksheets)

All students must attend the examination at the same time. There is no separate arrangement available for evening students to sit this exam.

Students who are unable to sit the mid-semester exam at the specified time must advise the Psychology Office via email and must also submit an Application for Special Consideration form (and Professional Authority if reason is medical, clearly stating the reasons for the absence from the exam). The form is available outside the Psychology office or can be downloaded from <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APScons.pdf>. This should be submitted to the Student Enquiry Services within five days from the date of the examination. The unit chair(s) will determine eligibility for a late mid-semester exam and eligible students will be notified about the time and location of the exam. There will be only one alternative time.

The University Examination period in *First Half Year 2011 is from June 6 to June 24, 2011*. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. See <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

The only exception to sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf>

If a supplementary examination is granted as a result of the special consideration process, the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.

Supplementary Examination in the Department of Psychology will be held on the 7th and 8th of July, for Semester One 2011. Supplementary exams are only offered to students who have satisfactorily completed all other assessments for the unit and were unable to sit the final exam. Instructions on applying for sitting of a supplementary exam are available from the website, www.psy.mq.edu.au/speccond. It is the student's responsibility to follow the steps outlined in this website. When a supplementary exam has been granted, an email will be sent to the student. It is the student's responsibility to check the Department of Psychology Special Consideration website for information relating to the date and location of the supplementary exam. Students who are granted a supplementary exam must make themselves available to sit for the supplementary exam on the specified dates. There will be only one alternative time. It is the student's responsibility to email the Psychology Office, psy_off@mq.edu.au to confirm attendance to the supplementary exams. You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, which is the final day of the official examination period.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is an integral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement. The Policy covering Academic Honesty is available on the web at: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Plagiarism is an example of dishonest academic behaviour and is defined by the Policy on Academic honesty as: "Using the work or ideas of another person and presenting this as your own without clear acknowledgement of the source of the work or ideas".

Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. The Academic honesty Procedure is available at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/procedure.html

This procedure notes the following responsibilities for students:

- Act in accordance with the principles of the Academic Honesty Policy.
- Become familiar with what academic dishonesty is, what are appropriate referencing techniques and the consequences of poor practice.
- Seek assistance from the unit convenor (or their nominee) to remedy any deficits or if you are unsure of discipline specific practice.
- Submit only work of which you are the author or that properly acknowledges others.
- Do not lend your original work to any other person for any reason.
- Keep drafts of your own authored work and notes showing the authorship or source of ideas that are not your own.

The penalties which can be applied for academic dishonesty are outlined in the Academic Dishonesty – Schedule of Penalties which can be found at:

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/schedule_penalties.html

The penalties range from applying a fail grade for the assessment task or requiring the student to re-submit the assessment task for a mark no greater than 50 to applying a fail grade to the unit of study and referral to the University Discipline committee.

You must read the University's Policy and Procedure on Academic Honesty.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines for the achievement of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG). Grades relate to SNGs in the following manner.

High Distinction (HD)	85 – 100%
Distinction (D)	75 – 84%
Credit (Cr)	65 – 74%
Pass (P)	50 – 64%
Fail (F)	0 – 49%

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. For more information please refer to the Macquarie University Handbook.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

In addition, Macquarie University provides a range of Student Support Services which can be accessed at <http://www.mq.edu.au/studyskillssupport/OtherMQStudySupportServices.html> and also at <http://www.sss.mq.edu.au/>.

Specific advice on learning is available from Learning Support, and the Study Skills Support Unit (see <http://www.sss.mq.edu.au/learning/undergrad/> and <http://www.mq.edu.au/studyskillssupport/> respectively). For those with issues surrounding numeracy or basic mathematical skills, assistance can be found via the numeracy centre (see <http://www.maths.mq.edu.au/numeracy>). If you have difficulties associated with writing skills, you could enrol in a short course on writing skills. For details go to:

http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/writing_skills/index.htm. For those with English as a second language, assistance may be sought from the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Resource Centre <http://www.ameprc.mq.edu.au/>.

On matters pertaining to the regulations, the Registrar's Office should be consulted or, within the Department of Psychology, Dr Julia Irwin, Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students with disabilities who have problems within the Department should consult Ms Radha Pathy, the Disability Liaison Officer. If your difficulties cannot be resolved by these members of staff you should consult the Head of Department.

APPEALS AGAINST GRADES

Please refer to the Macquarie University Handbook.