This course is designed to introduce auditory perception. The emphasis is on basic processes and their underlying mechanisms. Some applications will be considered for illustrative purposes.

The format of the course consists of three, one-hour lectures per week. An optional tutorial may also be scheduled if there is sufficient demand. The text for the course is *An Introduction to the Psychology of Hearing* (Fourth Edition) by Brian C. J. Moore. This text is available in the McMaster Bookstore. The lectures will follow the topics in the text, but will not always cover everything in the text and will sometimes include material not in the text. Examinations will cover both the text and the lectures, but will emphasize material from the lectures.

Your mark in the course will be based on three written examinations. The first two of these will be one-hour exams in class time, and are tentatively scheduled for early October and early November. At least one-week notice will be given of the exact date of each exam. Each of these hour exams will count for 25% of your course mark. The third exam will be a two-hour cumulative final scheduled and supervised by the Office of the Registrar. This exam will determine the remaining 50% of your course mark. A percentage marking system will be used. The course mark will be converted to a letter grade by the Office of the Registrar using the Senate-approved, standard scale. **No makeup exams will be given unless suitable arrangements have been made before the day of a scheduled exam.**

All exams in this course will consist of short answer and short essay questions. Attention is drawn to *Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty* as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office. Any student who infringes on these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy. Calculators, notes, etc. should not be brought to examinations. All you will need is an adequate supply of pens or pencils for writing the exam (and, of course, an adequate knowledge of how the auditory system works).

Your professor for this course is John Platt. His office is in Room 410 of the Psychology Building and his telephone extension is 23011. He may also be contacted by e-mail at platt@mcmaster.ca. In addition, a graduate teaching assistant will be available to help you with anything you are having difficulty understanding. The teaching assistant is Ranil Sonnadara, whose office is in Room 323 of the Psychology Building (this is behind security doors, so call from lobby phone) and his telephone extension is 24797. He may also be contacted by e-mail at ranil@mcmaster.ca. Ranil will hold office hours by appointment. **Neither the professor nor the teaching assistant can return your long-distance telephone calls.** If you live out of town, see them before or after class, stop by their offices, or use e-mail.

During class lectures I shall use overheads which outline the lecture material and present various graphics. I have found that students tend to spend a lot of time copying down this outline material and fail to hear the lecture in which I am explaining the material. To avoid this I have made the outlines available on the course web site so you can print them out or
copy them to your computer. The address of this web site is http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/Psychology/psych3a03/psych3a03.htm. Alternatively, you can simply go to the Psychology Department’s home page, select courses, and then select this course. **It would be a serious mistake for you to consider these lecture outlines to be a substitute for the lectures themselves.** Some students find it useful to bring a printout of the outline to class and make additional notes on the copy.

We shall cover the textbook chronologically, spending one to three weeks per chapter. The sequence of topics is thus:

1. The nature of sound and the structure and function of the auditory system.
2. The perception of loudness.
3. Frequency selectivity, masking and the critical band.
4. Temporal processing in the auditory system.
5. Pitch perception.
6. Space perception (if time permits).

In this course, you are expected to go beyond memorization to display an understanding of how the auditory system works. Some students find this difficult. You are strongly encouraged to read the relevant text chapter both before and after the lectures devoted to it. The initial reading will help you to follow the lectures and give you a better idea of what parts are difficult for you. The lectures should help clarify material that is difficult to follow in the text or needs further explanation or examples. The second reading of the text, after the lectures, should then be much easier and serve to solidify the information for you. I also advise you against trying to take verbatim notes during lectures since you will not be able to keep up and to think about the material being discussed. The latter is an important part of developing an understanding of the material.