Sensation and Perception (Psych 2E03)
Tues., Thurs. and Friday 8:30-9:30

Dr. Kris Gerhardt – email: gerhard@mcmaster.ca  Office Location: TBA  Office Hour: TBA

TA:  Zahra  hussaiz@mcmaster.ca  Tues. 10:00 – 11:00  PC 205
Ferrinne  spectof@mcmaster.ca  Wed. 5:00 – 6:00  x24761
Chris  taylorcp@mcmaster.ca  Thurs. 10:00 – 11:00  x24489

Objective: To provide an introduction to research and theory in the field of Sensation and Perception Psychology (a tentative lecture schedule of topics is included below)


Course Website: available through WebCT at https://webct.mcmaster.ca/

Course Evaluation:
- Mid-term 1 – 20%
- Mid-term 2 – 20%
- Group Assignments – 20% (see below)
- Final Exam – 40% (as scheduled by the Office of the Registrar)

**please note that tests and exams will cover material from the textbook, as well as any material included in the lectures or on the Web notes.

***there are NO make-up tests for the two midterms. If you miss either midterm, you will be assigned a 0 (zero) until you provide University accepted documentation for your absence. If you can provide this documentation, your final grade will be calculated by increasing the value of the remaining test based evaluations.

Group Assignments – (15% + 5%)
Each student will be randomly assigned to a private Group Study board in WebCT. All discussions and submissions will take place on the WebCT site for this course. There will be 3 assignments, each worth 5% of your total mark. The 5% will be split as follows: 3% for initial submission and discussion and 2% for group submission. Information regarding the exact requirements for the assignments will be available on the WebCT site and will be discussed in class the week prior to the assignment. Please note the due dates for each assignment as they are discussed. Since each assignment will include a discussion and a group component, late submissions will NOT be accepted. There will be one assignment in each of the following areas: Visual system, Chemical senses, Auditory system.

Peer Evaluation (5%) - Each member of a group is responsible for submitting an evaluation of their performance and that of each of their group members NO later than 24 hours after the due date of the final assignment. These evaluations should be emailed directly to me (and no-one else). An average will be calculated based on all the submitted evaluations. These evaluations should be based on a grading scheme that will be provided on the course website during Week 2. Your evaluation submissions will be kept strictly confidential. If you do not submit your evaluation by the deadline, you will receive a mark of 0 (zero) for this component of your evaluation.
**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

The following is a tentative lecture outline. Topics may be changed and/or added as we go through the course. It will be your responsibility to see that you know of any changes in the topics and readings that are announced during the lecture periods. Similarly, any changes or additions in material that are required for the mid-term or final exams will be announced in class. It will be your responsibility to be aware of these changes.

**Week of:**

**January**

| 03 | Ch 01 - Introduction to sensory and perceptual processes; Psychophysics – the experimental methods used to study the relationship between sensations and physical stimuli |
| 10 | Ch.02 – Introduction to the Visual System Receptors and Neural Processing |
| 17 | Ch.03 – The Lateral Geniculate Nucleus and Striate Cortex: anatomy, physiology |
| 24 | Ch. 05 – Perceiving Objects: extraction and recognition of features / objects |
| 31 | Term Test #1 (Ch01, 02, 03, 05) on Feb. 01/2005 Ch. 06 – Perceiving Colour; physiological and psychophysical studies |

**February**

| 07 | Ch. 07 – Perceiving Depth and Size: various cues to depth and physical mechanisms |
| 14 | Ch. 13 – The Cutaneous Senses: the receptors, neural pathways, thresholds of the sensation of touch |
| 21 | OFF – Reading Week |
| 28 | Ch. 14 – The Chemical Senses: the anatomy, physiology of the sensations of taste and smell |

**March**

| 07 | Term Test #2 (Ch06, 07, 13, 14) on Mar. 08/2005 Ch10 – Auditory System |
| 14 | Ch 10 |
| 21 | Ch. 11 – Perception of Sound **no class on Friday, March 25/2005** |
| 28 | Ch. 12 – Speech Perception: speech stimulus and perception |

**April**

| 04 | Catch up & Review |

**April 8-26: Final Exam** – as scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. This exam will cover all chapters, lectures and webnotes (except for Ch 04, 08, 09, 15, 16.)

The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual’s total performance in the course.
Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.