COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: PSYCHOLOGY 3A03 (AUDITION)

Prerequisites: Psychology 2E03 (Sensory Processes), or permission from the Instructor.

Instructor: Dr. Paul Faure, Department of Psychology, PC 111, Phone: 905.525.9140, ext 26393, email: paul4@mcmaster.ca

Course TA: Graeme Moffat, Department of Psychology, PC 333, Phone: 905.525.9140, ext 24052, email: moffatgd@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: By appointment only. Contact us via email.

Location: Lectures are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:30-1:30 PM in MDCLAD 1110 (Michael DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery, Room 1110)


Overview. Psych 3A03 is a Faculty of Science course intended for junior or senior undergraduates in the fields of Psychology and Biology. The course provides an introduction to the biology of hearing and auditory perception. The emphasis is on fundamental auditory principles, their underlying physiological mechanisms, and experimental methods used in hearing research. Topics include physical acoustics; sound analysis; structure (neuroanatomy) and function (electrophysiology) of the mammalian auditory system; and auditory perception (psychoacoustics).

Course Calendar (subject to revision) & Assigned Readings [Y### = pages to read from Yost textbook]

SEPT F10: Introduction and Welcome. What is Sound? [Y01-07]
W15: Physical Acoustics 2. Simple Harmonic Motion [Y11-18; 269-273]
W22: Physical Acoustics 5. Sound Transmission II: Reflection, Refraction & Diffraction (Fall Equinox)
T28: Sound Analysis 1. Fourier Analysis (Chinese Autumn Moon Festival) [Y277-280]
W29: Sound Analysis 2. Resonators & Filters [Y53-62]

OCT F01: Audio Demonstrations; Physical Acoustics Problems Tutorial
T05: Peripheral Auditory System 1. Outer and Middle Ear [Y65-89]
W06: Review Session
F08: Mid-Term Examination I
T12: Peripheral Auditory System 2. Inner Ear: Structure [Y81-91]
W27: Central Auditory System 2. Electrophysiology I: Cochlear Nucleus [Y232-245]
F29: Central Auditory System 3. Electrophysiology II: Midbrain & Cortex [Y245-251]

NOV T02: Auditory Psychophysics (USA Election Day; AUST. Melbourne Cup Day) [Y281-286]
W03: Review Session
F05: Mid-Term Examination II
T09: Psychoacoustics 1. Threshold Detection [Y149-155]
W17: Psychoacoustics 5. Temporal Masking [Y172-178]

DEC W01: The Abnormal and Aging Auditory System [Y253-267]
F03: Course Wrap-Up
**Important Dates**

- 19 September 2004 (Sunday): Last day for registration and adding or dropping courses
- 08 October 2004 (Friday): Mid-Term Examination I
- 05 November 2004 (Friday): Mid-Term Examination II
- 07 November 2004 (Sunday): Last Day to cancel a course without failure by default
- 07-21 December 2004: Final Examination (date and time scheduled by the Office of the Registrar)

**Website.** Check [http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/psych3a03/index.html](http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/psych3a03/index.html) for info and updates.

**Policies and Logistics.** The following policies are necessary in order to be fair and equitable to all students.

**Attendance.** You are expected to attend all lectures and exams. If you are late, please do not disrupt and/or disturb your fellow students who arrived in a timelier manner and are already seated and working. Talking during lecture, and related disturbing behavior, is inconsiderate. Do not schedule holiday travel during lectures or exams.

**Audio and Video Recordings.** The recording of lectures and exams (video or audio) is prohibited.

**Readings.** In this course you are expected to go beyond the memorization of facts to display an understanding of the material. Some students will find this difficult. You are strongly encouraged to read the relevant text chapters on a particular topic before and after the lecture devoted to that topic. The initial reading will help you to follow along during the lecture and to identify those areas in which you are having difficulty understanding. The follow-up reading(s) will help you to recall, synthesize and consolidate the material that was presented during the lecture.

**Handouts And Notes.** Course handouts will be placed near the doors to the lecture room. Please take only one copy of each handout so that there are enough for all students. Psych 3A03 has no course packet because it is absolutely essential for you to develop proper note-taking skills. Thus, if you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes on this material from a classmate. I advise against trying to take verbatim notes during the lecture because it will be difficult for you to keep up and to think critically about what is being discussed. Moreover, most of the material presented in lecture can also be found in the text, albeit presented from a different perspective. Slides shown during lectures will not be posted on the web because of copyright restrictions; however, feel free to search the web to obtain additional information and pictures pertinent to a particular topic.

**Grading.** Your performance in the course will be evaluated with three examinations. The format of each exam will be multiple choice and/or short answer questions. The first two exams will be Mid-Term Examinations of one-hour duration and will be held in-class. Each Mid-Term will count for 25% of your Final Grade. The third exam will be a Final Examination of three-hours duration, scheduled and supervised by the Office of the Registrar. The Final Exam is cumulative and will count for 50% of your Final Grade. Calculators, books, notes, etc. are prohibited during all examinations; all you will need is an adequate supply of pens and/or pencils and, of course, adequate knowledge of the subject matter being tested.

**Makeup Exams.** If you miss an exam you will need to have a valid excuse AND be able to document this excuse in order to qualify for a makeup examination. Examples of legitimate excuses include sickness, religious holiday, and conflict with another M.U. academic or sports event. If you simply skip and exam, hoping that an eventual excuse will become acceptable, then you will receive a zero for that exam. Psych 3A03 does not subscribe to proposals for “extra work” in mitigation of exam delinquencies. A makeup exam will NOT be given unless arrangements are made with the course Instructor or TA in advance of the regularly scheduled examination, or in the case of illness you must submit a medical note to your Faculty office.

**Review Sessions.** The lecture period prior to each Mid-Term Examination will be used as a question and answer session to review course material. You will benefit greatly from these sessions by coming prepared with specific questions in mind. Do not expect the course Instructor or TA to repeat the original lecture on a particular topic.

**Seeking Help.** Please ask the course Instructor or TA for help at any time if you need it. As a learner, it is your responsibility to recognize when you need help and ask for it.

**Academic Dishonesty.** Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means, and can result in serious consequences for a student such as the grade of zero on an exam or assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the student’s transcript that reads “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”, and/or suspension or expulsion of the student from McMaster University. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to McMaster’s Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at [http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm).