

Psychology 3D03

The Multisensory Mind

Winter 2009

Instructors:	Office Hours	E-Mail
David I. Shore	By appointment	david.shore@learnlink.mcmaster.ca
Chris Aruffo	TBA	TBA
Scott Baynton	TBA	TBA
Molly Pottruff	TBA	TBA

Class Times:

Lectures: Monday 10:30-11:20; Wednesday 9:30-11:20; both in BSB 108

Tutorial: Monday 16:30-17:20 in KTH B132

Instructional Resources:

Course webpage:

psych.mcmaster.ca/3D03/

We will also be using either Learnlink **and** Web CT in this class.

Course Objectives and Content:

The theme of the course stems from the thesis that many putatively unisensory phenomenon actually utilize more than one sensory system. That is, many behaviours are typically studied from a unisensory system perspective – we ‘see’ objects, and ‘hear’ music. Through a survey of the available literature and appeal to everyday examples, we will show how additional sensory systems are also involved in many of these behaviours. By the end of the course, the student should be familiar with the multisensory research literature: the main measurement tools, the primary theoretical arguments, and a general fluency with the concept. In terms of skills, this course focuses on presentation ability – both oral and written.

The knowledge requirements will be evaluated through a 50 minute midterm and a cumulative 3 hour final exam. The skills will be evaluated through the term project, which includes many components geared to teach the student how to expand an idea from a simple example to a written article and accompanying oral presentation. In addition, editing and evaluation skills will be exercised. *Finally; written skills will be developed through weekly one-page assignments focusing on a target article.*

Required Text:

The main readings stem from a series of essays that are bound into a custom coursepack available at the bookstore. These are survey essays covering the main themes in the course. You will also be required to read one original empirical article each week. Finally, you will need to read and understand articles related to your Term Project. All assignments and submissions must conform to APA format.

Evaluation Breakdown and Schedule:

Type of Assessment	Date	Value
Midterm Exam (50 minute)	Monday February 9, during lecture	20%
Term Project	Final Submission Due March 31	35%
Final Exam (3 hour)	Registrar Scheduled	35%
<i>Article Summaries</i>	<i>Every Week starting January 26, ending March 23</i>	10%

Term Project

Throughout the term you will work on a project that explains, demonstrates or otherwise highlights a multisensory phenomenon or concept. The topic can be chosen from any media available. Virtually anything can serve as the example (e.g., a standard published experiment, a music video, a clip from Star Trek, a neurological case study, a bit of written text, or even a simple experience). The only requirement is that you must be physically, psychologically, and legally able to present your example in front of the entire class in under 2 minutes. In exploring your topic, you will make the argument that a multisensory phenomenon is actually present in your example, provide some evidence from within the example, or from secondary sources, and assess the validity of the argument. You will be evaluated, at every stage, on the presentation of your argument, the validity of the argument, and the originality of your example. The goal here is to find examples where, at first blush, it appears as though only one sense is contributing to behaviour, but in actuality, information is integrated from multiple sources.

There are two evaluated components to the project: One written and one oral. The written component will take on the form of an empirical article with an Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion. Four separate drafts of the written project are due throughout the term:

February 2:	Outline of the project (6 copies)
February 23:	First complete draft of the article (6 copies)
March 16:	Draft 2 (3 copies)
March 31:	Final Submission (see below)

In addition to completing your own project, you will be required to edit and evaluate 5 other students' projects. You will provide feedback on their outline and their first complete draft. Your comments and evaluation are due 9 days after the papers are submitted (i.e., the Wednesday of the following week). The value of your comments will be assessed by both the receiving student and the instructors. The second draft will be evaluated and edited by two of the graduate student instructors in the course. The final submission will be evaluated by Dr. Shore.

The oral component will consist a **5 minute** presentation that describes the example (2 minutes), articulates your argument that it does indeed represent a multisensory concept (1 minute) and presents your evidence (2 minutes). This oral presentation will be evaluated by all of the students in the class, including the 5 readers of your first draft, the three graduate student instructors, and Dr. Shore. All of these

people will provide some form of written comments and a score sheet with specified grades. These presentations will be scheduled between March 2nd and March 30th.

You will be responsible for collating the feedback and evaluations from the class and preparing a short written report. The report will consist of an executive summary, a transcript of the class's comments, a representation of the quantitative data from the class, a self-evaluation, and a short assessment of what you will work on to improve for your next presentation. The entire report will be evaluated for written and graphical presentation.

The final submission will consist of: (1) the final draft of your manuscript, (2) all commented drafts (5 outlines, 5 first drafts, 2 second drafts), (3) all of the feedback, evaluations, and assessments provided on your oral presentation, (4) your self-assessment and evaluation, and (5) your evaluation of the feedback provided by other students.

Grade Breakdown for the term project:

Written Component (50%): Outline: 5%; Draft 1: 10%; Draft 2: 15%; Final Submission: 20%.

Oral Component (30%): General class assessment: 5%; 2nd readers' assessment: 10%; Instructors: 15%.

Presentation of feedback and evaluations (10%): Self-evaluation: 5%; Executive summary: 5%.

Feedback provided to other students (10%): Student evaluations: 5%; TA evaluations: 5%.

Bonus (potential up to 10%): I will also provide up to a 10% bonus for any attempt to produce an on-line version of the example. Check out spaces like mindhacks.com or eideneurolearningblog.blogspot.com. The contribution is due when your final paper is submitted. It will be evaluated by Dr. Shore.

Article Summaries:

Each Monday between January 26 and March 23, each student will submit a one page summary of an article that they have read in the previous week. Typically the article will be chosen from the reference section of the relevant chapter from the preceding week. If no chapter was assigned (i.e., during presentation weeks), then the student is free to choose any article in the literature that deals with a multisensory topic. These one page summaries will be submitted electronically to a LearnLink Conference to be specified. The first few assignments will be evaluated by the TAs. Subsequent assignments (to be determined) will be evaluated by your fellow students. This is done so that each student can experience the range of writing abilities in the class and have the opportunity to learn from their fellow students. Each assignment focuses on four aspects of the article to be summarized: the question, the method, the result, and the conclusion/discussion. Each section will be evaluated on both its content—does it describe well the critical component of the article?—and the written style of the author—do the individual sentences make sense and do they cohere into a complete submission? For each section, you should plan to write 2-4 sentences so that any grader can get the major point of the article. The assignments must be submitted to the learnlink conference BEFORE the start of class on the relevant Monday morning (i.e., before 10:30 AM). For the assignments that you do evaluations (starting some time in February), your evaluations will be checked by the TAs.

Grading Policy:

The instructors reserve 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. Students will be assigned a grade from the McMaster University Grading Scale between 0 and 12 based on an overall assessment by the professor on the work submitted. It is expected that to pass the course, the student will achieve a passing grade on both the Final Exam and the Term Project. All written work will be evaluated on grammar/spelling, clarity of writing, presentation, and organization.

Academic Integrity:

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 one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy. Any instance of Plagiarism will be dealt with in the most severe terms allowable by the Senate Policy on such matters. For example, there may be some of you that choose accidentally, or on purpose, to do very similar topics (e.g., visual contributions to speech, haptic influences on flavour, olfactory effects on mate selection). I will be reading every written presentation and any indication that identical work (images, words, figures, etc.) has been submitted by more than one student will be investigated. It is required that you reference all primary sources using APA format. It is also acceptable to acknowledge contributions from other class members in terms of feedback provided, ideas discussed, or even for moral support. You can do this through an acknowledgments section in your article, or through the reference section using the (personal communication) citation. It is perfectly acceptable and encouraged to discuss your project with other students, just be sure that what you are submitting is your own work.

Missed Work Policy:

All written work must be submitted in class at the beginning of lecture on the date due. All late work will be assigned a grade of zero. The final assignment is due by 5:00 pm on Tuesday March 31st. As there is no regularly scheduled class on this date, a dropbox will be arranged and its location will be announced in class and on the course webpage.

All excuses for missed exams must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty/programme within one week of the original due date of the missed work. After that time, students must appeal to have an exemption. It is also your responsibility to speak with your professor as soon as possible. Senate regulations for petitions for special consideration have always required that: "40. The student shall make a prompt and timely request for special consideration." No requests for exemption will be accepted after one month. In the case of a missed midterm, a make-up date will be determined for each student. The format of the make-up exam will be determined by the professor depending on the number of students affected. An oral exam is a distinct possibility.

Communication policy:

E-mail communications must originate from your designated McMaster e-mail account (either mcmaster.ca account or LearnLink account). Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, the e-mail will be sent to your mcmaster.ca account. You should monitor this account regularly. E-mail sent from third-party providers (yahoo, hotmail, cogeco, sympatico, etc.) will not be received. We have this policy for three reasons: 1. reduce the amount of incoming spam to our accounts; 2. ensure that we know with whom we are communicating; 3. teach the professional use of e-mail. Please note that instructors cannot return long distance telephone calls.

In this course we will be using either LearnLink or WebCT (this will be announced in class). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on

the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Students should also be aware that they will be providing feedback and evaluations of other students. In doing this, your identity will necessarily be communicated to the other student. Be honest in your assessment of their material and provide constructive comments. Do not inflate the grades as the instructors will consider this inappropriate and it will give the submitting student a false sense of accomplishment. We will talk, during lectures, on how to edit and evaluate a piece of written work and you will be given clear guidelines on how to conduct your assessment. Any concerns or questions regarding this process should be address to the instructors of the course as soon as possible. *This is especially true for the weekly article summaries. You should expect that your submission for this assignment may be available to all of the other students in the class. While this does not grant you personal privacy over your work, it does allow every student the opportunity to experience the gamut of abilities and styles present in the class. This should promote overall better writing skills and better evaluation criteria. The only way to improve your writing is to write often and have your writing read and critiqued by others. If you are uncomfortable with having other students read your writing, you should come and talk to the instructor of the course.*

Any change in the course requirements will be posted on the webpage and the details will be announced in class. *This is the 2nd version of the syllabus, to which the article summary assignments were added. See all text in italics for changes from the first version to the second version* Problems with the final exam schedule must be addressed to the Office of the Registrar.

Student Statement on Academic Integrity

You must return this form to the Instructor of the Course at the beginning of the class on Wednesday January 14th.

Student Name: _____ Student Number: _____

All students at McMaster University are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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 types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

By signing below, you are stating that:

1. I have read the course syllabus and understand all of the requirements for this course as laid out in that document.
2. I am aware of the Academic Integrity Policy of the University and I understand that I must submit my own work, which properly cites all primary sources.
3. I understand that the punishment for violations of the senate Academic Integrity Policy may include, among other things, a zero on the relevant assignment/test, a note on my transcript, an F on my transcript for this course, and/or Expulsion from the University.

In signing these forms you indicate that you understand the policy indicated above and have adhered to its requirements. Any cases of plagiarism or cheating will be treated with the seriousness they deserve. If you have any questions about infringement of the policy, you should contact one of the Instructors of the course.

Signed by the student: _____ Date: _____