

Psychology 3D03

The Multisensory Mind

Winter 2010

Instructors:

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Office Hours

By appointment

TBA

TBA

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Class Times:

Lectures: Wednesday 9:30-11:20; Friday 9:30-10:20; both in BSB/B103

Tutorial: Monday 11:30-12:20 in TSH/B106

Instructional Resources:

Course webpage:

TBA

Course Objectives and Content:

The theme of the course stems from the thesis that many putatively unisensory phenomena 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 toward teaching 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, fluency with the primary empirical literature will be developed through weekly ‘cue card’ summary assignments and oral reports on read articles.

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)	To be determined by vote on first day of class.	15%
Term Project	Final Submission Due Wednesday April 7	40%
Cumulative Final Exam (3 hour)	Registrar Scheduled	30%
Cue Card Assignments	Every Week starting Friday January 15	8%
Tutorial Based Assignments	Schedule to be announced in tutorial	7%

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 a typical essay. Four separate drafts of the written project are due throughout the term:

February 1:	Outline of the project (6 copies)
February 22:	First complete draft of the article (6 copies)
March 8:	Draft 2 (3 copies)
April 7:	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 7 days after the papers are submitted (i.e., the Monday 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 one or two of the graduate student instructors in the course. The final submission will be evaluated by Dr. Shore.

The oral component will consist an 8 **minute** presentation that describes the example, articulates your argument that it does indeed represent a multisensory concept and presents your evidence. This oral presentation will be evaluated by all of the students in the class, including the 5 readers of your first draft, the graduate student instructors, and Dr. Shore. All of these people will provide some form of

written comments and a score sheet with specific grades. These presentations will be scheduled between March 10 and April 2nd.

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 executive summary including your self-assessment and evaluation, and your evaluation of the feedback provided by other students and TAs; (2) The final draft of your manuscript, (3) all commented drafts (5 outlines, 5 first drafts, 2 second drafts), (4) all of the feedback, evaluations, and assessments provided on your oral presentation. Additionally, you will provide an extra copy of your executive summary and the final manuscript.

Grade Breakdown for the term project: Written Component (50%): Outline: 5%; Draft 1: 5%; Draft 2: 10%; Final Submission: 30%. 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%. These are basic guidelines to the value of each component. At the end of the term a single grade will be assigned based on the overall project. It is critical for you to note that it is your responsibility to present all of these components in your final project.

Cue Card Assignments:

Each Friday between January 15 and March 5, each student will read at least one empirical article and prepare a 5" x 7" cue card that contains the question, hypothesis, method, results and conclusion. The card should be titled with a complete APA citation to the article. A hand-drawn graph would also be appropriate. The article must be an *empirical* article dealing with a multisensory topic. It may come from the reference sections of the chapters in the coursepack. Preferably, it should contain only one or two experiments. You will bring your cue card to the class on the Friday of the week. Time permitting, you will be required to give a 2-3 minute summary of the article. You will be graded on all aspects of the card and your presentation. There are seven assignments; your best 5 will count.

Tutorial Based Assignments:

The tutorial section focuses exclusively on how to write a well-formatted essay and how to make clear oral presentations. Each week you will be given a small assignment to aid in the process of putting together your final term project. The number and nature of the assignments will be discussed in the first tutorial. Overall, this component of the course will be worth 7% of your grade. While the relative value is small, the potential to improve your final project is immense.

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**. You are required to complete the attached Student Statement on Academic Integrity and bring this to class on Wednesday January 13th. If you have any questions regarding this statement, please bring them to the attention of the course instructors.

Missed Work Policy:

All written work must be submitted in class at the beginning of lecture or tutorial on the date due. All late work will be assigned a grade of zero. The final assignment is due by 5:00 pm on Monday March 29th. As there is no regularly scheduled class on this date, a dropbox will be arranged and its location will be announced in class.

All documentation concerning missed work 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. 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 may be using ELM (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 addressed to the instructors of the course as soon as possible.

Changes in course requirements:

The instructor reserves the right to modify any aspect of the course as needed. For example, snow days, work stoppage, or other unforeseen events may cause some assignments to be cancelled or due dates rearranged. Any change in the course requirements will be e-mailed to your mcmaster.ca account and will be announced in class.