

The Arts and the Brain

PSYCH 3H03
Term 2, 2017-2018

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Prerequisite:	Human Perception and Cognition (PNB 2XA3) or Sensory Processes (PSYCH 2E03)

Please email from your McMaster email account only.

Course Description

The Arts and the Brain is a course in **functional neuroanatomy** that makes reference to the neurocognitive bases of artistic production and perception. The course discusses a broad range of topics related to motor control, perception, emotion, language, learning, memory, and social cognition.

The arts provide a framework for learning **functional neuroanatomy**. After a detailed introduction to the nervous system and neuroimaging methods, the course is organized into 5 modules: music (audition, vocalization); dance (the motor systems, vestibular sense, proprioception, somatosensation, spatial cognition); the literary arts (language, speech, declarative memory, role playing, perspective taking); the visual arts (vision, eye movement, drawing, writing); and the chemical arts (olfaction, gustation).

By the end of the semester, you should (a) be highly familiar with the structure and function of the human nervous system, i.e., **functional neuroanatomy**, (b) be conversant about the **neuroimaging methods** used to study human brain function and cognition, (c) have an understanding of the neural and cognitive processes underlying artistic production and perception, and (d) understand how the four major branches of the arts are related to one another.

Required Text

Purves et al.'s *Neuroscience*, 5th Edition (2012). Associated with the book is a downloadable program called "Sylvius" showing images of the human brain.

Avenue to Learn

This course uses *Avenue to Learn* to post the syllabus, lecture slideshows, and other materials.

Course Evaluation

Exams

A **neuroanatomy exam**, comprised of 30 multiple-choice questions, will occur during Week 3 of the course (**January 23**), accounting for 10% of the final grade. The idea behind this exam is that *if you haven't developed an understanding of the basic structure of the human nervous system by Week 3, you will have great difficulty succeeding in the course as a whole, as the remainder of the course builds on this material.*

In addition, there will be two **exams** (midterms), each one comprised of a combination of true/false, fill-in, multiple-choice, and short-answer (writing) questions. *Exam 2 will constitute one part of the final exam.*

Finally, there will be a separate **comprehensive final** (25 fill-in questions) that will constitute the second part of the final exam and that will cover material from the entire course.

Exams will cover the textbook, readings, and handouts. In addition to concepts, you will be tested extensively on *graphical* material, such as neuroanatomy and schematic figures from the textbook.

NOTE: 10% of each of the exams covers in-class material or activities not covered in the lecture notes or reading material.

Online Quizzes

There will be 4 online quizzes, comprised of 10 multiple-choice questions, each one worth 3.75% (i.e., $\frac{1}{4}$ of 15%) of the final grade. Each one will be based on a particular module of the course. The deadline for each quiz will be the Friday after the last lecture of a module at 11:59 pm. You only have 20 minutes to do a quiz.

Note that the quizzes are based on the textbook readings rather than the lecture notes.

Term Paper

You will be asked to write a 4-5-page (double-spaced) paper on a topic of relevance to the course. It should be typed and submitted to your TA as a hard copy. The

paper will count for 15% of the final grade, and must be turned in at the start of week 12 (Tuesday **April 3 at 7 pm** is the due date), although it can of course be turned in earlier.

The paper should be based on at least 3 *primary research articles* (i.e., not review articles, book chapters, or web sites) that involve the use of **neuroimaging** methods (fMRI, PET, EEG, MEG, TMS, etc.) to analyze functions of relevance to the arts. An analysis of the imaging methods beyond what is taught in the course is not expected of students. What is important is to discuss the tasks, experimental design, results, and interpretation of the studies. The research articles that are chosen should be related enough to one another that a comparison of their findings can be discussed.

The topic and a list of 3 references should be presented to your TA by week 10 (Tuesday **March 20** is the final date). This should be sent to your TA through **an email**.

NOTE: Citations and references should be written according to **APA style**. Be meticulous when creating your reference list. If you are not familiar with how to create citations or references, please consult your TA.

Contribution of Assessments to the Final Grade

Neuroanatomy exam	10% of the grade
2 exams (each one 20% of the grade)	40% of the grade
Comprehensive final	20% of the grade
4 quizzes (each one 3.75% of the grade)	15% of the grade
Term paper	15% of the grade

An Important Note about Missing the Midterm

If you are too sick to write the midterm, you are required to inform the instructor of this by email, preferably *before* the midterm but no more than 48 hours after the midterm. In addition, you must schedule a time with a TA to take a make-up midterm no more than one week after the midterm date. **Students are required to take the midterm in order to pass the course.**

Failure to take the midterm by one week after the midterm date will result in a **total loss of credit for the exam** unless you have certification from a doctor that you have a chronic condition and are unable to write the exam at that time.

A Summary of Important Dates

January 23	Neuroanatomy exam
March 3	Exam 1
March 20	Term Paper topic (+ 3 references) is due
April 3	Term Paper is due (7:00 pm)
April TBA	Exam 2 + Comprehensive Final

Quiz deadlines (all are Fridays at 11:59 pm)

February 9	1. Auditory system quiz: Chapter 13
February 16	2. Motor systems quiz: Chapters 16, 18 and 19
March 16	3. Language and memory quiz: Chapters 27 and 31
March 30	4. Visual system quiz: Chapters 20 and 12

McMaster University Grading Scale

A+ 90-100; A 85-89; A- 80-84; B+ 77-79; B 73-76; B- 70-72; C+ 67-69; C 63-66; C- 60-62; D+ 57-59; D 53-56; D- 50-52; F 0-49

NOTE: The grading scale is fixed. There is no curving of grades.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. The 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>

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.

Weekly Lecture Schedule

Week	Topic	Lecture Topic	Reading
1 1/9	The Human Brain	(a) neuroanatomy	Ch. 1 (pp. 13-15)
		(b) the neuron	Ch. 1 (pp. 4-13); Ch. 2 (pp. 25-29)
2 1/16	Cognitive Neuroscience and its Methods	(a) neuroimaging methods	Ch. 1 (pp. 18-20)
		(b) theories of emotion and expression	
3 1/23	The Arts and their Interconnections	(a) theories of the arts	
		(b) evolution of the arts	Morriss-Kay, pp. 158-168
EXAM		Neuroanatomy Exam	
4 1/30	Music Production	(a) music theory	
		(b) the vocal system	
5 2/6		(a) neural control of vocalization	
QUIZ 1	Music Perception	(b) the auditory system	Ch. 13
6 2/13	Dance Production	(a) dance; the motor systems of the brain and spinal cord	Ch. 16 (pp. 353-362; 369-374); Ch. 17
		(b) neural control of rhythm and timing	Ch. 18 (pp. 399-407); Ch. 19 (pp. 417-423)
		READING WEEK	
7 2/27	Dance Perception	(a) vestibular sense, proprioception, and somatosensation	Ch. 14; Ch. 16 (pp. 362-367); Ch. 9 (pp. 196-204)
		(b) spatial cognition and motion perception	
8 3/6 EXAM		Exam 1, covering Lectures 1a-7b	

9 3/13	Theatrical/Literary Arts Production and Perception	(a) the theatrical/literary arts	
QUIZ 3		(b) the neuroscience of language and memory	Ch. 27; Ch. 31 (pp. 695-698, 703-710)
10 3/20		(a) melody and rhythm in speech	
Term paper topic		(b) role playing and perspective taking	
11 3/27	Visual Arts Production	(a) the visual arts; neural control of drawing and eye movement	Ch. 20 (pp. 435-442)
QUIZ 4	Visual Arts Perception	(b) the central visual pathways; pictoriality	Ch. 12
12 4/3	The Chemical Arts	(a) olfaction and gustation	Ch. 15 (pp. 221-231, 336-350)
Term paper due	Aesthetics	(b) aesthetics	
Final 4/TBA		Exam 2, covering Lectures 9a-12b; Comprehensive Final, covering the entire course	

Assigned Reading

Morriss-Kay, G. M. (2009). The evolution of human artistic creativity. *Journal of Anatomy*, 216, 158-176.