

## PSYCH 2E03: Sensory Processes Course Syllabus

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Erin S. McCallum Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:mccalles@mcmaster.ca">mccalles@mcmaster.ca</a> Please send all emails from your McMaster address. Include Psych 2E03 in the subject line
<b>Office Hours</b>	My office on Friday each week 9:30 – 11:30. Sign up to attend by replying to the thread. I will cancel the office hours if no one has signed up by 8pm the night before. Location: Psychology Building, Rm 316
<b>Course Website</b>	Avenue to Learn ( <a href="http://avenue.mcmaster.ca">avenue.mcmaster.ca</a> ). Please check Avenue regularly for notifications and updates

### Teaching Assistants

Jiali Song: [songj16@mcmaster.ca](mailto:songj16@mcmaster.ca)  
Chao Wang: [wangc51@mcmaster.ca](mailto:wangc51@mcmaster.ca)  
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### TA Office Hours: By appointment

Please send all emails to TAs from your McMaster address. Include Psych 2E03 in the subject line. Emails that do not conform to these guidelines may not be answered.

### Course Description

In this course you will learn about the general processes mediating sensation and perception. We will cover topics including: neural principles of sensory pathways, the measurement of perception, and the role of sensory processes in behaviour. We will approach this course by covering the five senses: vision, hearing, touch, taste, and smell.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

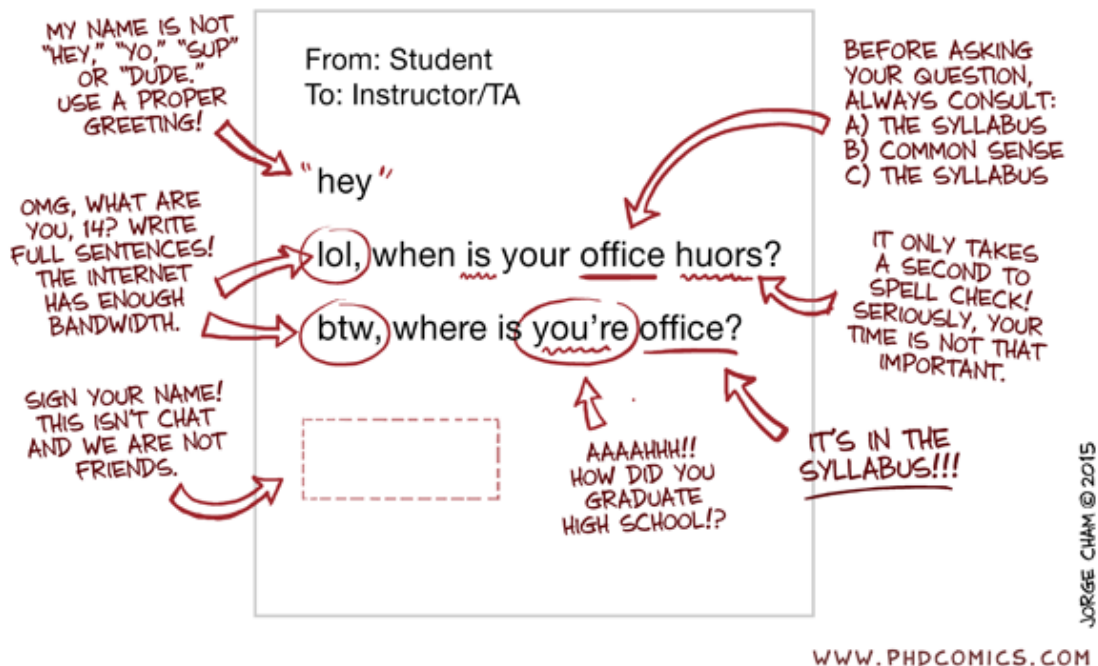
By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the transduction mechanisms of the five main sensory modalities.
2. Describe the organization of each sensory system from sensory receptor to cortex.
3. Describe common themes in sensory processing.
4. Describe the psychophysical methods used to measure sensory perception.

### Course Format

This course consists of 3, 50-minute lectures per week  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30am – 9:20am JHE 376

## HOW TO WRITE AN E-MAIL TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR T.A.



### Enrollment Requirements

Prerequisite(s): PSYCH 1XX3 or ISCI 1A24 A/B and registration in Level II or above; or registration in Level II or above of an Arts & Science, B.H.Sc. (Honours), the Honours Music (Music Cognition) or any Honours Cognitive Science of Language program

### Textbook

Chaudhuri, A. (2011) *Fundamentals of Sensory Perception*. Oxford University Press Canada

You can purchase hardcover copies of the text at the *Campus Store*, or you can purchase a 180-day eBook rental through CourseSmart at [www.coursesmart.com](http://www.coursesmart.com). Lectures will, for the most part, be derived from this textbook; you are required to read the associated chapters pertaining to lecture material (see Course Schedule below).

### iClickers

Classroom response systems will be used in lectures. Students should purchase an iClicker at the Campus Store and register it using their MacID (not student #). iClicker questions will be used as lecture feedback for the Instructor and also as assessments; grades will be distributed as indicated below. **Note that the use of another student's iClicker constitutes academic dishonesty and will result in an iClicker grade of "0".**

### iClicker grading

% of lectures participated	0	<20	20-40	40-60	60-80	80-100
Grade	0	1	2	3	4	5

### Course Assessment (%)

Assignments (3)	<b>15</b>	5% each
iClicker	<b>5</b>	
Test 1	<b>20</b>	
Test 2	<b>20</b>	
Final Exam	<b>40</b>	Cumulative
TOTAL	100	

### Assignments

There will be 3 assignments in total. Assignments will include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer problems related to class material, which you should consider as practice for the tests/exam. You are permitted to discuss the problems with your peers, though each student must complete and submit their own assignment. It is in your best interest to attempt the problem questions yourself. Assignments must be submitted in the appropriate Dropbox in Avenue by 11:59 PM on the assigned due date (see Course Schedule); late assignments will receive a grade of "0", *without exception*. The weight of a missed assignment (e.g., MSAF) will be redistributed between the other two assignments.

### Tests

You will be evaluated on lecture material as well as material in the textbook that is not covered in class. There will be 2 tests written during class time. Each test will take place over 2 class periods; the first half will be multiple-choice and the second half will be written answer. This format is intended to target multiple levels of knowledge comprehension and to address different learning styles. It will also provide students with more time per question and increase the number of total marks available, decreasing the weight of each individual question.

*There are no make-up tests in this course.* For students who miss one test and have the appropriate documentation, the weight of the test will be redistributed to the final exam. For students who miss both tests, 15% will be redistributed to the final exam and Test 2 will be replaced by a 1-hour, cumulative oral examination with the Instructor, scheduled within 2 weeks of Test 2. *Note that students cannot pass this course without completing at least one test, written or oral.*

### Midterm Review Policy

You may view your midterm exam during scheduled exam review office hours only. The time and place for review sessions will be posted after each exam. You will be asked to show your McMaster student ID. A copy of the answer key will be available at this time.

### Seeking Help

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

### Student Services

Several services are available on campus to assist students. You are encouraged to visit the **Student Wellness Centre** (<http://wellness.mcmaster.ca>) for mental and/or physical health related issues, the **Student Accessibility Centre** (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca>) for academic or disability-related needs, and the **Student Success Centre** (<http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca>) for academic counseling, tutoring, and other academic and career support.

### Missed Work Policy

**For absences from classes lasting up to 3 days due to a medical or personal reason:** Using the *McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)* on-line self-reporting tool, undergraduate students may report absences lasting up to **3** days and may also request relief for missed academic work worth **less than 25%** of the final grade. The submission of medical documentation is normally not required. Students may use this tool to submit a maximum of **one request** for relief of missed academic work per term. Students must **immediately (within 2 days of the missed work)** follow up with their course instructors regarding the nature of the relief. Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief. ***The MSAF tool cannot be used to apply for relief for any final examination or its equivalent.***

**Students who (1) are absent for more than 3 days, (2) wish to submit more than one request for relief of missed academic work per term, (3) are absent for reasons other than a medical situation, or (4) missed work worth 25% or more of their grade, cannot use the MSAF tool to request relief.** They MUST report to their Faculty Office to discuss their situation and may be required to provide appropriate supporting documentation. If warranted, students will be approved to use a discretionary version of the MSAF on-line, self-reporting tool.

**For absences from classes lasting more than 3 days, for work worth 25% or more, or for the reporting of more than one request for relief per term:** if the reason was medical, the approved McMaster University Medical Form covering the relevant dates must be submitted. The student must be seen by a doctor at the earliest possible date, **normally on or before the date of the missed work** and the doctor must verify the duration of the illness. Relief will not be considered for minor illnesses. If the reason is non-medical, appropriate documentation with verifiable origin covering the relevant dates must be submitted, normally within five working days. In some circumstances, students may be advised to submit a *Petition for Special Consideration (Form A)* seeking relief for missed academic work. In deciding whether or not to grant a petition, adequacy of the supporting documentation, including the timing in relation to the due date of the missed work and the degree of the student's incapacitation, may be taken into account. If the petition is approved the Faculty Office will notify the instructor(s)

recommending relief. The student must contact the instructor promptly to discuss the appropriate relief. Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief. It is the prerogative of the instructor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course.

### 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 from McMaster University. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For example, plagiarism, improper collaboration, copying and/or use of unauthorized aids in tests and examinations (i.e. cheating) are just a few forms of academic dishonesty. For more information on academic integrity and the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to McMaster's Academic Integrity Policy located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

### Grades

Grades obtained in PSYCH 2E03 will be converted according to the following scheme.

90-100%	A+	12	63-66%	C	5
85-89%	A	11	60-62%	C-	4
80-84%	A-	10	57-59%	D+	3
77-79%	B+	9	53-56%	D	2
73-76%	B	8	50-52%	D-	1
70-72%	B-	7	0-49%	F	0
67-69%	C+	9			

### Notice of changes to course structure

The university reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

The professor reserves the right to change any and all course requirements if the need should arise. Any change in the course requirements will be posted on the webpage, and the details will be announced in class. Any concerns about announced changes should be addressed with the professor as soon as the changes are announced.

**Course Schedule**

Lec	Wk	Date	Topic	Chap	Assignments
1	1	6/9	Intro – what is sensation & perception?		
2	1	8/9	The nervous system	2	
3	1	9/9	Electrical activity in neurons	2	
4	2	13/9	Measuring perception	1	
5	2	15/9	<b>no class</b>		Assign 1 available
6	2	16/9	Measuring perception	1	
7	3	20/9	Touch – transduction	3	
8	3	22/9	Touch – processing	3	
9	3	23/9	Touch – tactical perception	3	
10	4	27/9	Touch – proprioception & pain	3	
11	4	29/9	Taste – transduction & processing	4	Assign 1 due
12	4	30/9	Smell – transduction & processing	4	
13	5	4/10	<b>Test 1 – mc</b>		
14	5	6/10	<b>Test 2 – written</b>		
15	5	7/10	Smell – transduction & processing	4	
	6	11/10	<b>Midterm reading week – no class</b>		
16	7	18/10	Audition – physics of sound	5	Assign 2 available
17	7	20/10	Audition – the ear, transduction	5	
18	7	21/10	Audition – processing	5	
19	8	25/10	Audition – dysfunction, perception	5,6	
20	8	27/10	Audition – perception	6	
21	8	28/10	Audition – speech & language	7	
22	9	1/11	Audition – speech & language	7	Assign 2 due
23	9	3/11	Audition – speech & language	7	
24	9	4/11	Vision – light, optics, the eye	8	
25	10	8/11	<b>Test 2 – mc</b>		
26	10	10/11	<b>Test 2 – written</b>		
27	10	11/11	Vision – light, optics, the eye	8	
28	11	15/11	Vision – visual transduction	9	
29	11	17/11	Vision – the retina	9	Assign 3 available
30	11	18/11	<b>no class</b>		
31	12	22/11	Vision – perception & retinal function	9	
32	12	24/11	Vision – retinal projection to the brain	10	
33	12	25/11	Vision – the visual cortex	10	
34	13	29/11	Vision – higher cortical function	10	
35	13	1/12	Vision – intro to colour vision & depth	11,12	Assign 3 due
36	13	2/12	Vision – intro to colour vision & depth	11,12	
37	14	6/12	<i>Catch-up lecture or exam prep lecture</i>		