

## COURSE OUTLINE

### PSYCHOLOGY 368 (001): Perceptual Processing Term 2, 2012W

**Instructor: Dr. Debbie Giaschi**      office: Kenny 3531      phone: 875-2345x7807  
e-mail: [giaschi@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:giaschi@mail.ubc.ca)

**Teaching Assistants:**                      **Kimberly Meier**                      **Kevin Sauve**  
office: Kenny 3606                                      Kenny 3014

**Textbook:** *Sensation & Perception, 3rd edition* (2012) by J. Wolfe, K. Kluender, D. Levi et al.  
(1 copy on 2-hour reserve in Koerner Library; eBook available at [www.coursesmart.com](http://www.coursesmart.com); 1<sup>st</sup> [2006] and  
2<sup>nd</sup> [2009] editions are not suitable)

**Website:** [www.connect.ubc.ca](http://www.connect.ubc.ca) (course syllabus, instructional objectives, lecture outlines, lecture  
slides, discussion forum, research group sign-up and grades)

**CD-ROM:** PsyCog: Explorations in Perception and Cognition (2011) by Wyttenbach

**Lectures:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 am - 12:20 pm, Buchanan A104

**Office Hours:** Kim – Thurs., 2:30-3:30pm; Kevin – Fri., 12:00-1:00pm; Dr. G. – Tues., 1:00–2:00pm

*We are also easily reached through the discussion forum for this course on Connect. We will check this  
forum regularly; all questions about lecture material, assignments and exams should be posted here.*

*Alternatively, you can reach us by e-mail at [psyc368ubc@gmail.com](mailto:psyc368ubc@gmail.com).*

**Readings and Lectures:** Regular attendance at lectures is expected. You are responsible for reading the  
material in the textbook BEFORE the lecture in the order in which it appears on the schedule. Some of  
the material covered in class is not in the textbook, and some of the material in the textbook will not be  
covered in class. When it comes to the exams, you are responsible for ALL material covered in class and  
ALL material in the textbook including figures, definitions and summaries.

**Instructional Objectives:** Statements indicating what you should get out of each lecture and the readings  
will be included in the outline for each lecture (available on our *Connect* website). These objectives are  
to guide your studying and to make it unnecessary for you to ask us what you need to know for the  
exams. Many students choose to treat each objective as an exam question and attempt to answer it. We  
recommend this method of studying, but we do not have a list of correct answers.

#### Grades

Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	40%
<u>Research Project</u>	<u>25%</u>
total	100%

*In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology  
courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to  
departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class,  
and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13. **Scaling** is likely to be used in order to comply  
with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department.*

## PSYCHOLOGY 368(001): Perceptual Processing

**Exams:** Each of the exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams are not cumulative. Each exam will cover only material that you have not been tested on previously. Exams will not be returned to students, although they may be viewed during the TAs' office hours. Grades will be posted on *Connect* as soon as they are available. Midterm exam answers will be reviewed in class.

**Missed Exams:** Students will **not** ordinarily be excused for work-, travel-, childcare-, family emergency- or sports-related activities. However, students should not write exams when they are seriously ill. If a medical emergency arises, you must contact Dr. Giaschi **BEFORE** the exam (**604-875-2345x7807**), and obtain a Statement of Illness form from a physician indicating that you were unable to attend school on the day of the exam. A make-up exam will be scheduled when you are well again. If you show up after an exam and inform us that you were sick, you will not receive credit. If you write an exam and then blame poor performance on illness or anxiety, your grade will not be changed. Supplemental exams to improve your grade are not offered in the Department of Psychology.

**Human Subject Pool Participation:** To learn more about psychology and earn up to 3 bonus points toward your course grade, you may participate in research projects between January 2 and April 5. The projects are posted at [hsp.psych.ubc.ca/](http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca/). In a given term, you may earn no more than 1 point for online studies. As an alternative to participating in studies, you may read and summarize a research article; each written summary counts as 1 hour of participation. More information can be found at [www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy](http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy). Be sure to check your recorded bonus points for this course at the end of the term at [websec1.psych.ubc.ca/hsp/lookup/index.psy](http://websec1.psych.ubc.ca/hsp/lookup/index.psy). These points will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling that may be required.

**Accommodations:** Please let Dr. Giaschi know as soon as possible if you will be seeking accommodation through Access and Diversity or if you have religious obligations that will conflict with this course in any way. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or similar commitments cannot assume they will be accommodated and should discuss their commitments with Dr. Giaschi before the withdrawal date (January 14).

**Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct:** The UBC Calendar defines cheating as: "*dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct at tests or examinations, in which use is made of books, notes, diagrams or other aids excluded by the examiner. It includes communicating with others, copying from the work of others and purposely exposing information to other students who are taking the test or exam.*" Plagiarism is: "*the presentation or submission of the work of another person, without citation or credits, as the student's own work*".

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in *TurnItIn*'s own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class. In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript. *All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals.*

For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see the Academic Regulations section of the UBC Calendar ([students.ubc.ca/calendar](http://students.ubc.ca/calendar)).

# PSYCHOLOGY 368(001): Perceptual Processing

## Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 3	Object perception: middle vision	Chpt 4 (p. 91-106)
8	Object perception: recognition	Chpt 4 (p. 106-112; web essay 4.1)
10	Object perception: faces, physiology	Chpt 4 (p. 85-91,112-115;web essay 4.3)
15	Colour vision: detection, discrimination	Chpt 5 (p. 117-125)
	<i>sign up for research group/proposal topic</i>	
17	Colour vision: appearance	Chpt 5 (p. 125-134; web essay 5.1)
22	Colour vision: deficiency, constancy	Chpt 5 (p. 134-147; web essay 5.2, 5.3)
24	Depth perception: monocular	Chpt 6 (p. 149-162)
	<i>individual proposal due</i>	
29	Depth perception: binocular	Chpt 6 (p. 162-173)
31	Depth perception: physiology, development	Chpt 6 (p. 173-174, 178-185)
Feb 5	Size constancy	Chpt 6 (p. 174-178; web essay 6.3)
7	<i>group experiment planning</i>	
12	<b>***Midterm Exam***</b>	<b>(Chpts 4, 5, 6 + web essays)</b>
14	Motion perception: computation	Chpt 8 (p. 221-227)
19&21	Midterm Break	
26	<i>group data analysis and presentation preparation</i>	
28	Motion perception: physiology	Chpt 8 (p. 227-231; web essay 8.2)
Mar 5	Motion perception: uses, eye movements	Chpt 8 (p. 231-241)
7	Spatial orientation perception	Chpt. 12 (p. 344-361)
	<i>group presentations start</i>	
12	Attention: space	Chpt 7 (p. 187-197; web essay 7.2)
14	Attention: time, physiology, disorders	Chpt 7 (p. 197-206)
19	Attention: scenes	Chpt 7 (p. 206-218)
21	Complex sounds	Chpt 10 (p. 286-301)
26	Music perception	Chpt 11 (p. 303-309)
28	Speech production	Chpt 11 (p. 309-314)
Apr. 2	Speech perception	Chpt 11 (p. 314-327; web essay 11.1)
4	Haptic perception	Chpt 13 (p. 380-396)
	<i>research reports due</i>	
TBA	<b>*** Final Exam (2 hours)***</b>	<b>(Chpts 7, 8, 10[286-301], 11, 12[344-361], 13[380-396] + web essays)</b>

*web essays can be found at [sites.sinauer.com/wolfe3e/home/startF.htm](http://sites.sinauer.com/wolfe3e/home/startF.htm)*

## PSYCHOLOGY 368(001): Perceptual Processing Guidelines for Research Projects

Students will need the PsyCog CD-ROM for this research project.

### 1. *choose a research group:*

This will be done through *Connect* (“Research Groups” on sidebar) starting **Tuesday January 15**

Students will assign themselves to groups (6 students/ group) according to the PsyCog topics listed below. The purpose of signing up is to give you a topic on which to write your proposal.

This is also the group you will work with for the experiments.

<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Colour Perception:</b>	A2.1a <i>Afterimage</i> - groups 1 and 2
		A2.3 <i>McCollough</i> - groups 3 and 4
	<b>Size &amp; Orientation:</b>	A6.1 <i>Muller-Lyer</i> - groups 5 and 6
		A6.3 <i>Ponzo</i> – groups 7 and 8
		A6.6 <i>Ebbinghaus-Delboeuf</i> - groups 9 and 10
	<b>Motion:</b>	A4.1a <i>Aftereffect experiment</i> - groups 11 and 12
	<b>Attention:</b>	D2.1 <i>Change blindness</i> – groups 13 and 14

### 2. *propose an experiment:*

This is a typed proposal due **Thursday January 24** at the beginning of class.

Each student will propose a specific experiment within their group topic using the parameters/conditions/suggestions available on the PsyCog CD-ROM. The proposal should include: a *description* of the phenomenon to be studied, with reference to a *classic journal article*; a typical *explanation* for the phenomenon, with reference to a *journal article* that is not cited in the textbook or PsyCog; the *research question* you propose to explore; a description of the *specific parameters* and procedure to be used in the experiment (this will vary by topic), plus the viewing distance and number of trials to be used, with enough detail for the TA to conduct your experiment.

There is no specific format to follow. You may have difficulty finding suitable references if you restrict your search to Google/Yahoo/MSN or even Google Scholar. You will have more success with the indexes and databases available through the Library’s website at [www.library.ubc.ca](http://www.library.ubc.ca). *Be sure to include your name, student # and group # on the title page.*

### 3. *plan a group experiment:*

This will be done during class on **Thursday February 7**.

Each group will design a single experiment on their assigned topic. You may choose one of the individual proposals from your group members (which will be returned to you with feedback for use during this class), or you may design a new experiment. Each group member will collect data on themselves outside of class time. These data must be brought to class on **Tuesday February 26**. Do not run additional subjects outside of your group.

*A group proposal is due at the end of class either by uploading to Connect or submitting a hand-written hard copy.* Follow the content instructions for the individual proposals. You will be contacted by e-mail if we anticipate any problems with your design.

## PSYCHOLOGY 368(001): Perceptual Processing Guidelines for Research Projects continued

### 4. *analyze your data and prepare slides:*

This will be done during class on **Tuesday February 26**.

Each group of 6 students will combine their individual data and prepare an oral presentation. *Each group must hand in an outline of their presentation and a list of each student's role in the preparation and/or delivery of the presentation, either by uploading to Connect or submitting a hand-written hard copy at the end of class.*

### 5. *present your project to the class:*

Two groups will present each class, beginning with groups 1 and 2 on **Thursday March 7**.

Each group will have **7 minutes** for their presentation. Each group member must be involved in either the preparation or oral delivery of the presentation. Be sure to: give some background on your topic, describe how the data were collected and analyzed, show your results and interpret your results.

A group grade will be assigned based on timing, creativity, preparation and organization, completeness, clarity, reference to course material and ability to answer questions. *A list of each group member's role in the presentation must be signed and handed in at the end of the presentation.*

### 6. *prepare a research report:*

This is a typed report, due **Thursday April 4** at the beginning of class.

Each student must hand in their own unique report based on the group data. Organize your report with clearly labeled Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion sections (details on the content of each section will be provided in class). *Be sure to include your name, student # and group # on the title page.* The report should be no longer than 5 double-spaced pages (12 pt font).

#### *Calculation of Grades\*\*\**

<b>individual proposal</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>group proposal</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>group class presentation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b><u>individual research report</u></b>	<b><u>10%</u></b>
<b>total</b>	<b>25% of final grade</b>

- A penalty of 10% per day will be applied to late assignments. Assignments received more than 1 week after the due date will not be marked. Students may be asked to provide an electronic version of their assignment to be submitted to *TurnItIn* to check for plagiarism.
- Each student is expected to attend the classes in which the planning, analysis and their group presentation take place. Students who do not contribute to or miss a particular component will lose 2.5% of their final grade unless they have a documented medical excuse. Students will be asked to rate the contributions of their group members after the individual reports have been handed in. Grades may be adjusted for students whose group indicates that their contribution was minimal.
- Each member of a group will receive the group grade, unless they have failed to contribute to the proposal or presentation (as indicated by absence or a low score on the peer evaluations).

**Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments because we will need to keep the marked assignments.**