

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:	Method and Research in Sensation and Perception	
Course Number and Section:	PSYCHOL	2130E 550
Instructor Name(s):	Stephen Van Hedger	
Instructor Email(s):	svanhedg@uwo.ca	

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course introduces the major research domains within sensation and perception. Perception is our only means of extracting information from the environment, allowing us to experience the discrete objects and events “out in the real world” that drive our behaviour. As such, understanding sensation and perception is foundational to other subdomains within psychological science. Throughout the course, we will explore how sensation differs from perception; investigate different theoretical traditions that have attempted to account for perceptual phenomena; survey the methods that are used to study sensation and perception; and trace the functional and anatomical organization of the different sensory modalities, from sensory transduction, through stages of information processing, to perception and action. Course content is divided into lecture and laboratory components, with the latter component providing hands-on experience in conducting research within the field of sensation and perception.

Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to describe the structure and function of our sensory systems.
- Understand the research methodologies and paradigms used to study sensation and perception.
- Demonstrate basic proficiency in the skills relevant to conducting research within sensation and perception, including (but not limited to) conducting a literature reviews, designing an experiment, and collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data.
- Refine critical thinking and science communication skills.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Required textbook: [Wolfe, JM et al. 2024. Sensation & Perception, 7th Edition. Sinauer Associates.]

Cost: [\$224.40 (Physical) or \$136.00 (Ebook)]

Physical and Ebook copies of the textbook can be purchased from the Western Book Store. If you decide to purchase the textbook from a different vendor, please ensure that you order the seventh edition.

Note: There will be additional required readings (e.g., journal articles) assigned throughout the course. These will be posted on OWL and do not need to be purchased. Additionally, the software required for the research project is either open source (PsychoPy, JASP) or free to you through Western (Microsoft Excel).

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation Reflections	Throughout Course	6
Fall Midterm Exam	October 23rd	11
Fall Final Exam	December Exam Period	16
Winter Midterm Exam	February 26th	11
Winter Final Exam	April Exam Period	16
Creative Assignment #1	November 14th	4
Creative Assignment #2	March 13th	4
Research Project Check-Ins	Throughout	3
Research Project Group Presentations	December 4th	7
Research Project Peer-Self Evaluation	December 4th	2
Research Project Final APA Report	April 4th	20

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, August 18, 2025