PSYC 458: Visual Attention and Perceptual Neuropsychology

0.1250 EFTS
22 Feb 2016 - 25 Jun 2016

Course Coordinator:
Dr. Zhe Chen
Office: Rm 509; Lab: Rm 406
Extension: 7179 (office); 7987 (lab)
Email: zhe.chen@canterbury.ac.nz
Office Hours: By appointment.

Time and Place
Wednesday 9 – 11am, Psychology - Sociology 411.
(Please check Course Information System and/or My Timetable for any possible changes to day/time/venue.)

Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide a relatively in-depth understanding of current research in selective areas of visual attention and perceptual neuropsychology. The goal is to develop both an understanding of the fields and an interest in pursuing research in some aspects of them in the future. Each topic will be the focus for one or two consecutive weeks. It is essential that you do the weekly reading before the class, and come to the class ready to discuss these papers.

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of the course, students will have:

- Gained a relatively in-depth understanding of the major models and theories in selective areas of visual attention and perceptual neuropsychology.
- Demonstrated the ability to read original research articles, evaluate critically the authors’ empirical findings and their interpretation of the data and theoretical claims.
- Learnt to lead discussion and to present other people’s research in a clear and succinct way.
- Learnt to formulate a research question, conduct literature search on a topic of interest, turn the research question into one or more testable hypotheses, write a research proposal, and present the proposal in a semi-formal setting.
- Learnt to edit and to write in a style consistent with the English Wikipedia's Manual of Style.
- Produced a Wikipedia entry on-line.

**Prerequisites**
Psyc209 Sensation and Perception, and/or Psyc208 Cognition, or similar undergraduate courses.

**Textbook**
There is no textbook required. A reading list is provided later in this outline; all the articles can be downloaded from *Learn*.

**Assessment** (Details will be provided in class)
- Class presentation & leading discussion  (15%)
- Discussion participation  (10%)
- Research project proposal (due: **18 May**)  (40%)
- Wikipedia writing project (due: **3rd June**)  (35%)

**Topic Schedule**
- Week 1 (Feb. 24) – Organization meeting
- Week 2 (Mar. 2) – Is there top-down attentional control at all (I)?
- Week 3 (Mar. 9) – Is there top-down attentional control at all (II)?
- Week 4 (Mar. 16) – Attention & distractor interference (I)
- Week 5 (Mar. 23) – Attention & distractor interference (II)
- Week 6 (Mar. 30) – Synesthesia (I)
- Week 7 (April 6) – Synesthesia (II)

*Term Break*
- Week 8 (May 4) – What is special about spatial location in visual perception?
- Week 9 (May 11) – Visual neglect: What is extinguished in visual neglect?
- Week 10 (May 18) – Science applied: Searching for a rare target
- Week 11 (May 25) – Group work: Editing each other’s Wikipedia writing project
Week 12 (June 1) – Research project presentation

Reading List
(Note: Only those with an “*” are required readings. Those without an “*” are supplementary readings.)

Week 1 (Feb. 24) – Organizational meeting

Week 2 (Mar. 2) – Is there top-down attentional control at all? (I)


Week 3 (Mar. 9) – Is there top-down attentional control at all? (II)


Week 4 (Mar. 16) – Attention & Distractor Interference (I)


**Week 5 (Mar. 23) – Attention & Distractor Interference (II)**


**Week 6 (Mar. 30) – Synesthesia (I)**


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Week 8 (May 4) – What is special about spatial location in visual perception?


Week 9 (May 11) – Visual neglect: What is extinguished in visual neglect?


Week 10 (May 18) – Science applied: Searching for a rare target


Week 11 (May 25) – Group work: Editing each other’s Wikipedia writing project

No readings assigned.

Week 12 (June 1) – Research project presentation

No readings assigned.
General Course Information

University Information and Technology Services for Students
Help with IT account, Email, My Documents (P:Drive), Computer Accounts, ICT Workrooms etc etc. http://www.icts.canterbury.ac.nz/for/students.shtml

Online Learning
Learn2 web link - http://www.learn.canterbury.ac.nz/

Psychology Department Assessment Cover Sheets
This form can be downloaded from http://www.psvc.canterbury.ac.nz/for/coversheets.shtml and should be attached to the front of all your assignments. Hard copies can be found on the ground floor of the Psychology Lab Block where the assignment drop boxes are.

Library: Psychology Subject Guide link
http://canterbury.libguides.com/psyc

Academic Liaison
For any concerns about the course, please see the Course Coordinator in the first instance. The Psychology Department has a Staff/Student liaison committee and at least five students will voluntarily represent postgraduate students for both papers and thesis years. An email asking for volunteers will be sent out early in the first semester.

Students with Disabilities
Please refer to the Disability Resource Service web site for information on study support services: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/.

Policy on Dishonest Practice
Plagiarism, collusion, copying and ghost writing are unacceptable and dishonest practices.

- Plagiarism is the presentation of any material (text, data, figures or drawings, on any medium including computer files) from any other source without clear and adequate acknowledgement of the source.
- Collusion is the presentation of work performed in conjunction with another person or persons, but submitted as if it has been completed only by the names author(s).
- Copying is the use of material (in any medium, including computer files) produced by another person(s) with or without their knowledge and approval.
- Ghost writing is the use of another person(s) (with or without payment) to prepare all or part of an item submitted for assessment.

In cases where dishonest practice is involved in tests or other work submitted for credit, the student will be referred to the University Proctor. The instructor may choose to not mark the work.
Marks and Grades
You will get a mark and/or a grade for each piece of assessment during the course and a final grade at the end of the course. Please consult the Psychology Department’s Handbook for more information about the Department’s policy on converting marks to grades.

If you have a query about any assessment mark you should, in the first instance, speak to the course coordinator. You can apply through Students Services to appeal for up to four weeks after the release of results: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/exams/results.shtml

Special Consideration
The Aegrotat process has been changed commencing 2016 and is called Special Consideration. This a late change for 2016 and as at the commencement of lectures we advise all students to go directly to the University’s Examinations website - http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/exams/special-consideration.shtml for information and contact Examinations directly if you have any queries. On this same website there is information about Results and Appeals for final grades.

Please note that course assessment and grades are reviewed by the Course Coordinator at the end of the year and may be discussed at the examiner’s meeting before a decision as to whether an adjustment to the mark for the relevant assessment is warranted. You have the right to appeal any decision made.

As per the “General Course and Examination Regulations” - http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations/general/general_regs_aegrotat.shtml the department of Psychology’s policy of “substantial part of assessment” for all courses is set at 50% of all course work. Unless 50% of coursework is completed, final Special Consideration will not be given.

For more information on reconsideration of grades, see from Page 7 of the 2016 University Calendar: General Regulations and Policies.

Safety / Emergency Procedure Information

First Aid
The first aid kit is in Rm 226 (main office) and Level 4 Room 465, Geography /Psychology Lab Block

First aid holders: Sharyn Gordon Rm 226, Ext 6902; Julia Rucklidge Rm 465, Ext 7959; Silvana de Freitas Costa Rm 523, Ext 7175; Neroli Harris Rm 523, Ext 7175, Kate Freeman Rm 523, Ext 7175.
A full list is maintained on the central UC H&S Toolkit.

Main Hazard Register can be found at main office reception, Room 226, 2nd level, Psych. Lab Block.

Medical Emergency or serious injury
• University cardiac arrest phone number 6111 and request defibrillation.
• Ambulance or Fire Service number 1 – 111
• Security numbers – 6111 – non emergency 6888
• Student health centre: 6402. Using a mobile phone, Free Dial 0800 823-637

UC Defibrillator location
• Geography\Psychology link block (by Café 101)

Emergency Assembly area
• Psychology car park – away from the Building

Wardens
• Building Warden Staff Block: Gerard Merman, Room 514, Ext 6751; and Silvana de Freitas Costa, Room 523, Ext 7175.
• Floor Wardens L6, L4 Zhe Chen, L2: First person to the board; L1- Glenn Lewis, L3 Sociology,
• Building Warden Geo/Psyc Lab block: Denise Forbes - Room 310, Ext 6976. Psychology Clinic Floor, L2- Janet Cumberpatch, ext. 44627
• Floor Wardens: L5 Psyc Lab Block - Neroli Harris; L4 - First person to the board,
  L3 – Sociology; L2 - Robyn Daly

People
• HOD: Janet Carter, Room 221, Ext 8090
• Departmental Safety Officer: Silvana de Freitas Costa, Room 523, Ext 7175
• H&S Rep: Chris Burt, Room 424, Ext 6321 - nominated in September 2012
• Administrative Services Manager: Robyn Daly, Room 222, Ext. 6382

Event reporting (incidents, near miss, injury, illness, discomfort, and pain/serious harm):

Forms are available for completion from the main office L2, from the photocopier/printer
L4 and also from the photocopier/printer level 5 room 501, Psychology Staff Block or
from the UC H&S Toolkit. Once completed please give to the Department Safety Officer,
signed off by the HOD, then forward to UC H&S central.

Please report immediately possible Serious Harm to the Departmental Safety Officer who
will then communicate with the University Health and Safety Manager for appropriate
action.

Link: http://www.psyc.canterbury.ac.nz/health%20and%20safety.shtml

Important: After hours – raise the alarm and notify the Fire service – call 1-111.