

## **PSYC 224, Sensation and Perception (3 credits; Category 2)**

**Instructor:** Zahra Hussain

**Department:** Psychology

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**Office hours:** Wednesday 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

**Class times:** TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm

**Location:** Nicely 322

**Evaluation:** Ten in-class quizzes (10 x 2% = 20%), two midterm exams (2 x 20% = 40%), one final exam, cumulative (40%).

**Textbook (required):** Sensation and Perception, 4th Edition, Wolfe et al (2015), Sinauer Associates, Inc Accompanying website: <http://sites.sinauer.com/wolfe4e/>

**Additional readings:** Additional readings will be posted on Moodle.

**Course description:** In this course, students will learn about the human sensory systems of vision, hearing, smell and taste, with an emphasis on vision and hearing. We will trace how external stimuli (light, sound, odors), are encoded by sensory receptors and transformed into perceptual experiences. The course covers the physiology of sensory organs, neural pathways, and perceptual phenomena from everyday life (e.g., illusions, adaptation), that illuminate how sensory input is represented in the brain. Students will also learn about the methods used in sensory science to measure, quantify and understand human perception.

### **Learning outcomes:**

1. Describe the physiology and mechanisms of sensation using written explanations, graphs and diagrams
2. Differentiate the methods of measurement used in sensory science
3. Relate common perceptual experiences to neural mechanisms
4. Appreciate the precision and range of human sensory systems

**Course policy:** Please be on time to class and read the assigned chapters during the week of the lectures. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken with a sign-up sheet. If you are going to miss class or be late, please inform the instructor in advance via email or in person. If you are absent for more than five lectures, you may be withdrawn from the course. Mobile phones and laptops may not be used in class. If you are found using your mobile phone, it will be confiscated. The instructor maintains the right to modify course content, method of evaluations, or the grade distribution at any point in the semester. You are responsible for keeping track of course content posted on Moodle.

**Missed tests and assignments:** There will be no makeup quizzes or exams, or opportunities for missed midterms. Missed quizzes or midterms without adequate documentation will be given a mark of zero. For a missed midterm with adequate documentation, the weight of the midterm will be carried forward to the final exam. There will be no makeup final exam. For medical excuses, adequate documentation comprises a medical certificate from AUBMC.

**Grading policy:** Grading will be criterion-based.

**Tentative Course schedule**

<b>Date, Day</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Sept 6-13, RR	Chapter 2	First steps in vision	Tues 11: Holiday - no class
Sept 18-20, TR	Chapter 3	Spatial vision	Thurs 20: Holiday - no class
Sept 21, <b>Friday</b>	Chapter 3	Spatial vision	Makeup class
Sept 25-27, TR	Chapter 4	Object recognition	
Oct 2-11, TRTR	Chapter 5+	Colour and lightness	Extra reading, check Moodle
Oct 13, <b>Saturday</b>	<b>Midterm 1</b>		
Oct 16-18, TR	Chapter 6	Depth perception	
Oct 23-25, TR	Chapter 8	Motion perception	
Oct 30 - Nov 1 TR	Chapter 1+	Psychophysics	Extra reading, check Moodle
Nov 6-8 TR	Chapter 9	Hearing I	
Nov 13, T	Chapter 10	Hearing II	
Nov 14 <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Midterm 2</b>		
Nov 15, R	Chapter 10	Hearing II	
Nov 20-22, TR	<b>No class</b>		
Nov 27, T	Chapter 10	Hearing II	
Nov 29, R	Chapter 14	Smell	
Dec 3, M (makeup class)	Chapter 15	Taste	

- Additional readings indicated by +

**Communication:** If you have questions about the course format, or specific questions about the course material, please email me or arrange to meet with me in person. I will try to respond to emails within a 48 hour period. Please try to use office hours for clarification of material.

**Academic Integrity:** All written assignments must be in your own words. Please refer to AUB Student Code of Conduct: <http://website.aub.edu.lb/rep/cec/spaac/Documents/RevisedStudentCodeConduct.pdf> and <https://www.aub.edu.lb/it/services/students/plagiarism/Pages/home.aspx>, which concerns academic misconduct including cheating, plagiarism, in-class disruption, and dishonesty. Please be aware that misconduct is vigorously prosecuted and that AUB has a zero tolerance policy. Evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in course failure.

**Disability:** AUB strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a visible or invisible disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can discuss your options. To help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, contact the Accessible Education Office (AEO), preferentially in the first few weeks of the semester: [accessibility@aub.edu.lb](mailto:accessibility@aub.edu.lb); +961-1-350000, Ext. 3246; West Hall, 314. In all cases, you must provide me with an official AUB letter of accommodation from the AEO.

**Non-discrimination:** AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at [www.aub.edu.lb/titleix](http://www.aub.edu.lb/titleix). To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Trudi Hodges at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or [titleix@aub.edu.lb](mailto:titleix@aub.edu.lb). An anonymous report may be submitted online via Ethics-Point at [www.aub.ethicspoint.com](http://www.aub.ethicspoint.com).