

**Huron University College
Department of Psychology**

**Psychology 2760G – Special Topics: Research in Sensational Data
Winter 2019**

1.0. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

1.1 Course Number:

Psychology 2760G

1.2 Course Name:

Special Topics: Research in Sensational Data

1.3 Scheduled class times and location:

Wednesdays 8:30-11:30 W108

1.4 Pre/Anti-requisite information:

Antirequisite(s): Psychology 317

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in Psychology 1100E (or by permission).

Extra Information: 0.5 course.

1.5 Instructor Name:

Dr. Derek Quinlan

1.6 Instructor contact information:

Room: Alumni House 2 (previously Benson House)

Email: dquinla4@uwo.ca

1.7 Office hours:

Wednesday 11:30am (the hour immediately following lecture)

2.0. CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

A research oriented course that focuses on the experiments and methodology that lead to our current understandings of mammalian sensation and perception.

Understanding of the introductory foundations of research and perception will be gained through practical experience (in-class experiments) in the various sensory modalities (i.e. Vision, Audition, Somatosensation, etc.)

3 lecture/seminar hours; 0.5 course

Note 1: Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission to enroll, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

3.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should have:

- a broader understanding of concepts in sensation and perception
- a working knowledge of the research paradigms used in sensation and perception research
- an understanding of the use of converging evidence in the building of theories

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF CLASS METHODS

This course will be predominately lecture-based, but will also include in-class demonstrations and experiments that will investigate the basic processes in human sensation and perception. There will be three 'lecture' hours per week which will be used for both lectures and experiments/demos. Exams will assess students' basic conceptual and functional knowledge of both lecture and textbook material, as well as the methodological paradigms and findings resulting from the experiments/demos. Writing assignments will also be utilized to assess students' understanding of the materials/methods explored.

5.0 REQUIRED TEXTS

Assigned readings will be assigned as needed on a week-to-week basis and made available on the course website. These readings, along with lecture materials will be covered in the exams. Please note that most of the material for this course will come from lectures, therefore regular class attendance is highly recommended .

6.0 EVALUATION

1. Exams: There will be two exams, a midterm worth 30% and a final second exam worth 40% of the final course grade. The first exam will cover all materials related to the first five lectures (Jan. 9 – Feb. 6), while the final exam will be non-cumulative, covering only the material from the last 6 lectures (Feb. 13 – Apr. 3). These exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, diagram, and short-answer questions.

2. Lab assignments: There will be lab assignments submitted each week (approximately) that will range from data analysis results (ANOVA's, Correlations, etc.) to small written exercises (Abstract, methods, etc.). These will constitute 10% of the final grade. These assignments will be due at the beginning of the lecture following their issuance. Lecture attendance will be necessary to complete these assignments.

3. Paper: There will be one full experimental paper (in APA format) worth 20% of the final grade and will be due March 27th.

6.2. Exams

There are two exams, which when combined, determine 70% of the final grade in the course.

The first will be written during class time in a location to be announced and the final exam will be written during the final examination period as scheduled by the Registrar's Office. **Exams are non-cumulative and each exam covers approximately one half of the course material.** Exams will be composed of multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank questions/diagrams, and short answer questions based on the assigned readings and lectures/demonstrations/experiments. No electronic devices of any sort are permitted to be in a student's possession during exams. Following the failure of a student to write the midterm exam, and acting on advice from the Academic Counseling Office to provide relief (based on medical and/or non-medical grounds), we will calculate the student's final grade based on their performance on the final exam and the written assignments. Students that do not write the midterm exam and do not receive accommodation from the Academic Counseling office will receive a midterm grade of zero. In the event that a student fails to write the final exam during the final exam period, and again acting on advice from the Academic Counseling Office to provide relief (based on medical and/or non-medical grounds), we will permit that student to write a make-up for the final exam only. Otherwise, the grade will be recorded as zero. The make-up exam will follow a similar format to that of the regularly scheduled exam and will be written on the day and time set aside for such make-up examinations. Documentation for missed exams/assignments must be submitted to the Academic Counseling Office in a timely manner.

Exam grades will be posted in the gradebook of the OWL website. Students may review their exam in the presence of their instructor during office hours, but the Department will retain all tests.

Statement Regarding Grades in Psychology at Huron University College

Students at Huron University College should consider a grade in the range from 70-74 to be evidence of satisfactory performance in a 2100-level Psychology course. Grades in the B+ (75-79) or A (80-89%) ranges will only be awarded for performance that is demonstrably superior to the second-year standard associated with the Major or Minor modules. A grade of A+ (90-100%) will only be awarded very rarely and only for work that is truly exceptional.

7.0 Psychology 2760G – Tentative Schedule – Winter 2019

	Date	Topic	Notes
Jan.	9	Syllabus & Classical Psychophysics	
	16	Signal Detection theory	
	23	Scaling	
	30	Reaction Times	
Feb.	6	Imaging	
	13	Auditory	
	20	Reading Week	NO CLASSES
	27	Midterm	IN-CLASS (Jan 9 - Feb 6 material)
Mar.	6	Touch	
	13	Visual Pathways	
	20	Optics & the Eye	
	27	Depth Perception	
Apr.	3	Proprioception & Reference Frames	
	11th - 30th	FINAL EXAM PERIOD	Date set by Registrar (Feb 13 - Apr 3 material only)



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Conduct* at:

<https://huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details

concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf,

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

(c) Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the

exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive.

University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's

university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <https://huronuc.on.ca/about/accessibility> (“Cancellations and Closures”).

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Advising

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services (huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/academic-advising>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/art-social-science>