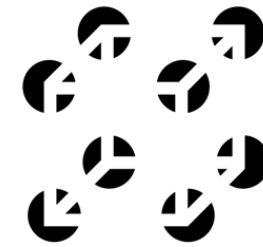


82:468 – Perception – Winter 2021

Mon & Wed – 3:40pm – 5:00pm
Nicholas Watier – watiern@brandonu.ca



Topic	Title	Topic	Title	Assessment Deadlines and Weights
0	Introduction	VII	Flatlands	Feb 5 th – Written Debate (30%)
I	Where Darkness Reigns	VIII	The Treachery of Images	Feb 8 th – Oral Debate (Participation Marks)
II	An Infinite Regress	IX	Common Sense and Common Senses	Apr 9 th – Summative Reflection Paper (40%)
III	Let There Be Light	X	Wings to Another	All Semester – Participation (30%)
IV	The Thunderdome!	XI	Closure	
V	Secrets of the Aura			● +
VI	The CRACK in the Forest			+

Written and Oral Debate: You will be assigned to argue in favor or against the contention that our perceptions are veridical. The written component involves developing two arguments that support your position, anticipating a counterargument from the opposition, and providing a rebuttal to that counterargument. The written component will form the basis for your contribution to an in-class debate. Students will be called upon to articulate their strongest argument, attack the opposition's arguments, and defend their own. The professor will moderate and raise points of clarification or contention. Performance in the oral debate will contribute towards participation marks. More details about the written and oral components are posted on Moodle.

Summative Reflection Paper: You are tasked with subjecting yourself to a semester-long personal reflection exercise aimed at developing your intellectual sensitivity to the following problem: *What is a percept?* Exactly how you go about answering that problem and demonstrating your insights into the problem is up to you. My only constraint is that your response must address how your understanding of perception has changed throughout the semester and the reasons for those changes. Ultimately, you have to convince me that you learned something in this course. Your response should be 6-7pgs. double-spaced. More details about the paper are posted on Moodle.

Participation: Each class will involve a discussion around students' intuitions and provisional understanding about a topic or problem in perception. Consequently, you will be expected to express your thoughts, no matter how obvious or inconsequential they may seem to you (which they are anything but). Your responses can be personal, informal, and conjectural in nature. You are encouraged to offer resistance to the professor, and question the arguments that are advanced in class. Students will be given bi-monthly feedback on their current level of participation so they can adjust their contributions accordingly. The final participation mark will be based on in-class contributions throughout the semester. A rubric and provisional discussion questions are posted on Moodle.

Textbook: A textbook is not required for this course. For reasons that will be discovered over the unfolding of the semester, students are encouraged to actively develop their own understanding of perception rather than simply rely on information from a textbook. Films, short-stories, poems, quotes, art, and demonstrations will be used to supplement the course topics, and prompt speculation and discussion in the classroom. Some of the readings and demonstration materials are posted on Moodle. I've also posted optional technical academic articles about perception on Moodle for those who are interested.

Workload: Given that you are not expected to read and take notes from weekly chapters in a textbook, nor are you required to memorize lecture notes for a test or summarize peer-reviewed papers for a literature review, the weekly workload outside of class is relatively light. As a tradeoff, I do expect a high degree of attention and engagement with the course material during class time.

Course Description (From Course Calendar): Prerequisite: 82:266. This course examines human senses and the functioning of the nervous system in perception. Topics include the study of sensation and perception as a central area in the development of experimental psychology, from early Gestalt and psychophysical approaches to recent discoveries in cognitive neuroscience.

Spirit of the Course (From Xenophanes): “The gods did not reveal, from the beginning, all things to us, but in the course of time through seeking we may learn and know things better. But as for certain truth, no man has known it, nor shall he ever know it, neither of the gods, nor yet of all the things of which I speak. For even if by chance, he were to utter the perfect truth, he would himself not know it: *For all is but a woven web of guesses*”

Accessibility Services: Brandon University values diversity and inclusion, recognizing disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive for all students. The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office works with students who have permanent, chronic, or temporary disabilities. SAS will provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, or temporary), you are invited to contact Student Accessibility Services to arrange confidential discussion at (204) 727-9759. If you are registered with SAS and have a letter requesting accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the term to discuss the accommodations outline in your letter. Additional information is available at the Student Accessibility Services website.

Psychology Department Statements Regarding Rewrites & Waiving Pre-Requisites:

The Psychology Department does not permit individual student rewrites of any exams (or any other alternate form of assessment).

The Psychology Department will not waive prerequisites unless the student can display sufficient background knowledge and/or experience. The student must provide the request to the department in writing for approval with appended documentation.

Letter Grade Equivalents:

A+ 90-100%	B+ 75-79%	C+ 61-64%	D 50-53%
A 85-89%	B 70-74%	C 57-60%	F Below 50%
A- 80-84%	B- 65-69%	C- 54-56%	

Academic Dishonesty: Academic fraud will not be tolerated. Academic fraud includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, submitting assignments from other courses, and falsifying research data. As stated in the Senate Policy on Academic Integrity (<https://www.brandonu.ca/senate-office/senate-policies/>) students that are suspected of departing from academic integrity will have a hold placed on their course withdrawal eligibility, meet with the professor to determine student’s responsibility for departure, and if the student was deemed responsible, face sanctions from the Dean, including: a grade of zero on the assignment, a grade of F-AD in the course, or expulsion from the university.