



Course Outline

PSYC3221

Vision and Brain

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T1, 2019

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Prof Colin Clifford	colin.clifford@unsw.edu.au	Email or phone for questions or appointments, or consult immediately following lectures.	Mathews 1013 9385-1050
Lecturer	Prof Colin Clifford	colin.clifford@unsw.edu.au	Email or phone for questions or appointments, or consult immediately following lectures.	Mathews 1013 9385-1050
Lecturer	Dr Damien Mannion	d.mannion@unsw.edu.au	Email or phone for questions or appointments, or consult immediately following lectures.	Mathews 1014 9385-0372
Lecturer	Prof Branka Spehar	b.spehar@unsw.edu.au	Email or phone for questions or appointments, or consult immediately following lectures.	Mathews 715 9385-1463
Tutor	Ms Lindsay Peterson	lindsay.peterson@student.unsw.edu.au	Email for questions or appointments, or consult immediately following tutorials.	Mathews 1502

2. Course information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	PSYC2071 Perception and Cognition PSYC2001 Research Methods 2
Teaching times and locations:	PSYC3221 Timetable

2.1 Course summary

“Attempts to construct computer models for the recognition and interpretation of arbitrary scenes have resulted in such poor performance, limited range of abilities and inflexibility that, were it not for the human existence proof, we may have been tempted long ago to conclude that high performance, general purpose vision is impossible.” (Barrow & Tannenbaum, 1971).

Although written over 40 years ago, the above statement is still pertinent and relevant today: while seemingly effortless, human visual perception is a complex achievement taking up 40% of the entire cortex. In this course, the problem of visual processing will be considered from ecological, physiological, philosophical, and computational perspectives. The general orientation of the course is a theoretical one but applied aspects such as the role of basic perceptual processes in disorders such as autism and schizophrenia, and the implications for the design of effective visual displays will be discussed as well.

2.2 Course aims

The main objective of this course is to provide an advanced-level coverage of theoretical issues and research in visual perception with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of the scientific study of perceptual processes. It will require students to critically evaluate theoretical claims and empirical evidence about perceptual processes and to develop skills to conduct research and communicate scientific information in visual perception.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course, it is expected that you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of historical theoretical views and modern advances in the study of vision and visual perception,
2. Apply an advanced knowledge of research methods in visual perception enabling you to design and conduct studies of perceptual processing.
3. Demonstrate advanced critical thinking skills, enabling you to evaluate perceptual processes and phenomena from multiple theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches.
4. Demonstrate an advanced appreciation of values and professional ethics in research.
5. Demonstrate effective teamwork and scientific communication skills.
6. Understand and apply knowledge of visual processing in other domains such as clinical disorders, social cognition and artificial vision.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

Program Learning Outcomes – Related Activities							
CLO	1. Knowledge	2. Research Methods	3. Critical Thinking Skills	4. Values and Ethics	5. Communication, Interpersonal and Teamwork Skills	6. Application	Assessment
1	Lectures, Tutorials, Online Perception Modules		Lecture, Tutorials, Online Perception Modules	Lecture, Tutorials, Novel Group Project		Novel Group Project	Exams, Novel Research Project Group Presentation, Novel Research Project Individual Research Report
2		Tutorials: Novel Research Group Project					Novel Research Project Group Presentation, Novel Research Project Individual Research Report
3	Lectures, Tutorials, Online Perception Modules	Tutorials: Novel Research Group Project	Lecture, Tutorials, Novel Research Group Project, Online Perception Modules	Tutorials, Novel Group Project		Lectures, Tutorials, Online Perception Modules	Exams, Novel Research Project Group Presentation, Novel Research Project Individual Research Report
4				Lecture, Tutorials, Novel Research Group Project			Novel Research Project Group Presentation, Novel Research Project Individual Research Report
5					Tutorials, Novel Research Group Project		Novel Research Project Group Presentation, Novel Research Project Individual Research Report
6	Lectures, Online Perception Modules		Lectures, Online Perception Modules			Lecture, Tutorials, Novel Research Group Project	Exams, Novel Research Project Individual Research Report

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

This course provides an advanced treatment of theoretical, physiological and computational approaches in the study of visual perception. It follows on, and assumes knowledge, from PSYC2071 Perception and Cognition.

The two, one-hour lectures each week will be used to provide students with an advanced coverage of a selected number of topics within the fields of perception and visual neuroscience as well as implications for a number of diverse areas ranging from design to advertising and human factors. Lecture notes will be made available on the course website located at the UNSW Moodle server (moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au), but this should not be seen as being a substitute for the lecture itself because important details may be given in the lecture that are not found in these notes. Please note that due to copyright restrictions it is not always possible to post copies of all of the materials covered in lectures. A recorded version of the lectures will be posted there as well. Please note that due to unforeseen errors in the central Echo recording system, some lectures may never get recorded or may be recorded badly. Consequently, do not rely on these as your main source of information regarding lecture material.

The laboratory classes are designed to allow opportunities for in-depth and active learning of research methods in perception and development of oral and written presentation skills. All lectures and tutorials encourage an interactive style with questions being asked, and expected, in order to promote reflective and active learning. The teaching employs a variety of different methods and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and to work cooperatively.

The design of the structure, content and assessment of this course has been informed by the policy document "Guidelines on learning that inform teaching at UNSW" (see <https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/guidelines>). Attendance at face to face tutorials and timely completion of online tutorials is essential in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

The General Discussion Forum on Moodle provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the concepts and ideas mentioned in the lectures. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, or replying to other students' posts to enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills.

3.2 Expectations of students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date. All students must read the Course Outline.

The final exam for this course will take place on campus during the UNSW examinations period. Students should not arrange travel during the UNSW exam period until the date of the final exam has been released. Students who arrange travel prior to the release of the final exam date will not be granted consideration in the event they are scheduled to be out of the country when the final exam is

to occur. This is especially important for study abroad students – do not arrange travel home until the final exam date has been released.

Students registered with Disability Support Services must contact the course co-ordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

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4. Course schedule and structure

Each week this course typically consists of 2 hours of face to face lectures, 2 hours of tutorials, and 2 hours of online modules. Students will be expected to engage in additional 6 hours of self-determined study per week across the term to complete course readings, assessments, and exam preparation.

Week	Lecture topic/s	Tutorial/lab topics	Online modules	Self-determined activities
Week 1 18/02/2019	Theoretical Approaches (Branka)		Theoretical Perspectives Online Module Theoretical Perspectives Revision Quiz	Readings: Mather (2011) Ch. 7; van Tonder & Ejima (2000); Hoffman (2016).
Week 2 25/02/2019	Vision and the Coding of Natural images (Branka)	Selecting, implementing, and analysing a research project	Spatial Vision Online Experiments Coding of Natural Images Revision Quiz	Readings: Olshausen & Field (2003); Gilchrist (2006).
Week 3 4/03/2019	Scale-specific Visual Processing (Branka) Vision in Autism & Schizophrenia (Branka)	How to prepare a group poster presentation	Spatial Vision Online Module Vision in Autism and Schizophrenia Revision Quiz	Readings: Kauffmann et al (2014); Oliva & Torralba (2007); Simmons et al (2009); Yang et al (2013).
Week 4 11/03/2019	Mid-term in-class exam (Branka) Texture (Damien)	Group Research Project Proposal Presentations		Reading: Thompson et al. (2011) Ch. 8.
Week 5 18/03/2019	Texture (Damien)	Group Research Project Experiment Deployment		Readings: Wilson et al. (1998, 2001).
Week 6 25/03/2019	Illumination, Surfaces and Recognition (Damien)	Group Research Project Data Collection	Group Research Project Data Collection	Readings: Thompson et al. (2011) Chs. 9 and 10.

Week 7 1/04/2019	Illumination, Surfaces and Recognition (Damien) Binocular Rivalry (Colin)	Group Research Project Analysis & Interpretation	Interactive review of Damien's lecture material	Readings: Thompson et al. (2011) Chs. 9 and 10.
Week 8 8/04/2019	Adaptation & Contextual Modulation (Colin)	Group Research Project Poster Design & Preparation		Readings: Webster (2011); Clifford (2014)
Week 9 15/04/2019	Motion Processing (Colin)		Correlation model of motion detection online module	Readings: Mather (2011) Ch. 12; Movshon et al (1985)
Week 10 22/04/2019	Motion Processing (Colin)	Vision & Brain Student Conference - Poster Presentations	Revision quiz on Colin's lecture material	Readings: Salzman et al (1990); Snowden & Milne (1997); Treue (2001)
Study period 2/05/2019				Exam preparation
Exam period 6/05/2019				Exam preparation

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Mark	Due date
Assessment 1: Mid-session exam	30 MCQ + 2 short essay (45 mins)	20%	/100	TBA
Assessment 2: Novel research project group presentation	3-hour poster session	15%	/100	TBA
Assessment 3: Novel research project individual research report	2000 words	25%	/100	TBA
Assessment 4: Final exam	6 essay questions (2 hrs)	40%	/100	Exam period

Assessment 1: Mid-session exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions and two short essay questions. The exam will be based on Weeks 1-4 material covered in lectures and tutorials. Practice questions will be provided in weeks leading up to the exam. The exam will be held in xxx. Marked exams scripts will be returned to students once marks are released.

Assessments 2 & 3: As part of this course you will be required to design and conduct a small-scale empirical research project in the area of visual perception. After the completion of your project, you will be asked to make a poster summary of your research projects with a short oral presentation (10 minutes) on your project (worth 15%). All members of the research group are required to take part in these presentations, as you will be awarded a single mark for the poster and its presentation as a group. However, written research reports (individual mark worth 25%) on this project are expected to be individually written and submitted via Turnitin. The report should be formatted as a research report for the journal Psychological Science and should be approximately 2000 words in length. The teaching staff (Branka, Colin and Damien) will be available to advise you during all stages of your project. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be released on xx. Marks and feedback will be returned to students on xx and no submissions will be accepted after this date – any essay submitted xx will not be marked and will receive a grade of 0.

Assessment 4: The final exam will contain approximately 6 short essay questions: Damien and Colin will each write approximately 5 questions out of which you will choose 3 questions. The exam will be based on the content covered in the lectures by Damien and Colin (Weeks 6-12, inclusive). No student should organise travel during this period until the final examination schedule has been released and the date of the exam is known. Further details regarding the exact time and location of the exam will be released on myUNSW as they become available.

UNSW grading system: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades>

UNSW assessment policy: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Where appropriate, further details and marking criteria for each assessment will be provided to students closer to the assessment release date (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

Written Research Report (Novel Group Research Project): In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy the essay must be submitted online via Turnitin. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

Late penalties: deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see: [Psychology Student Guide](#)).

Special Consideration: Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Special consideration applications must be submitted to Student Central within 3 working days of the assessment due date along with a physical copy of the supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student's control are eligible for special consideration (see - <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>). In the case of take-home assessment tasks, misadventure must occur for at least 3 consecutive days during the assessment period. If approved, students may be given an extended due date to complete take-home assessments, or an alternative assessment may be set.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Mid-session exam	TBA	Spehar	Online	Moodle
Novel Group Research Project- oral presentation	TBA	Clifford	Online	Moodle
Novel Group Research Project- written research report	TBA	Clifford	Online	Turnitin
Final exam	TBA	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (6th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately:

[APA 6th edition.](#)

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.¹ At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>, and
- The *ELISE* training site <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/presenting>

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

7. Readings and resources

Textbook	Nil
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly readings as per section 4 are available for download via the UNSW Library holdings or the course Moodle page • School of Psychology Student Guide.
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Policy concerning academic honesty Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy statement UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement

8. Administrative matters

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

¹ International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Disability Support Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Disability Support Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html>