1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Topics available in the Department of Psychology.
Prerequisite: Registration in fourth year Honors Specialization in Psychology or Honors Specialization in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience.
3 seminar hours, 0.5 course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, 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 prerequisites.

2.0 COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: S. Paunonen, Rm. 6304 SSC
Office Hours: By appointment, 661-2060, paunonen@uwo.ca
Secretary: Beata Jaroslawski, Rm. 7418 SSC
Lectures: Thursdays 12:30-3:30, 8440 SSC

3.0 TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

There is no one textbook for this course. However, students are required to read several published research articles and book chapters (see Section 7.0). Copies of these materials can be obtained from the instructor or from original sources in the library.

4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, we will evaluate critically some issues and controversies prominent in research in person perception. In general, we will explore the situational and personological factors that determine the perceptions people have of themselves and of others. Topics will include methods of assessing accuracy and bias in person perception, relative accuracy of self versus peer ratings, issues involving stranger ratings of personality, the search for moderators of accuracy in person perception, and perceptions of animals and other objects. We will also study the research on facial features of people, and discover how those cues influence our thinking about others.
5.0 EVALUATION

The course grade will consist of a weighted sum of five components. These are (a) a written critique of a review article worth 20%, (b) a class seminar presenting a research proposal worth 15%, (c) a written version of the research proposal worth 20%, (d) a final examination worth 35%, and (e) class participation worth 10%.

The first assignment will be a written critique of a manuscript that will be given to you one week before the due date. You will be required to read some background material and then critically evaluate the data and conclusions of the authors in a 8-page (typed, double-spaced) paper.

The second and third assignments will involve proposing an empirical study in one of the areas of research discussed in class. You will be assigned a general research problem by the instructor. You will then do the relevant literature review and design a study to test hypotheses that will help to clarify the issue. The literature review along with the proposed research study will be described to the class orally in a 30-minute seminar. A brief question period will follow the seminar. The formal written proposal (15 pages) will be due the same day.

The final examination will be 3 hours long and will contain short answer and essay type items. All material from the beginning of the course will be covered. The final will be scheduled for the final exam period.

Your class participation grade will be based in part on attendance, completion of weekly readings, contributions to classroom discussion, and questions asked during the seminars.

The Psychology Department follows the University of Western Ontario grading guidelines, which are as follows (see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/grades_undergrad.pdf):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Superior work that is clearly above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Competent work, meeting requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Fair work, minimally acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.0 EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The evaluation timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVALUATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written critique</td>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal seminar</td>
<td>Nov. 25 - Dec. 9</td>
<td>.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written proposal</td>
<td>Nov. 25 - Dec. 9</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>Dec. 10 - Dec. 21</td>
<td>.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the inclusion of an extra class on December 9th, if necessary.
7.0 LECTURE TOPICS AND ASSOCIATED READINGS

The lecture topics and the assigned readings are listed on a separate page. Please try to read the relevant articles before each class.

8.0 STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Students are responsible for understanding the nature and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other scholastic offenses. Plagiarism and cheating are considered very serious offenses because they undermine the integrity of research and education. Actions constituting a scholastic offense are described at the following link:


As of Sept. 1, 2009, the Department of Psychology will take the following steps to detect scholastic offenses. (a) All multiple-choice tests and exams will be checked for similarities in the pattern of responses using reliable software, and records will be made of student seating locations in all tests and exams. (b) All written assignments will be submitted to TurnItIn, a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism by comparing written material to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn’s databases. (c) 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 (http://www.turnitin.com).

Possible penalties for a scholastic offense include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

9.0 OTHER INFORMATION

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

1. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to write a make-up test or exam or be given an extension on an assignment or seminar. These include medical or compassionate reasons substantiated by the proper documentation (see below) approved by your faculty’s Academic Counselling Office.

2. If the missed exam is the final examination (set by the Registrar’s Office) the student must contact the Academic Counselling Office to request a permission form for writing a Special Final Examination. That form must be signed by the instructor, the department chairperson, and the Dean.

3. A student missing an exam or assignment or seminar must notify the instructor on the day of the exam or deadline, or on the following day at the latest.

4. The student must notify the instructor in person or by telephone, NOT by email. If leaving a phone mail message, be sure to leave your telephone number.

5. A student who misses an exam or seminar for other than medical or compassion reasons, or who is unable to substantiate a claim, or who fails to notify the instructor by the day following the exam or deadline will be assigned a grade of zero for that evaluation. Late written assignments will be assessed a penalty of 5% per day.
9.0 OTHER INFORMATION (continued)

MEDICAL NOTES:

In May, 2008, The University of Western Ontario’s Senate approved a new medical note policy, which affects all students. The following is an outline of that policy. For more detailed information and forms, please visit:

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm

For further policy information please visit:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Notes from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website:


Hard copies are available from the student’s home Faculty Academic Counselling Service.

Notes from Student Health Services

Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a "release of information." This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student’s home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student’s home Faculty Academic Counselling Service.

Notes from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website:


ELECTRONIC AIDS:

No electronic aids (e.g., computers, cell phones, PDAs, MP3 players, etc.) are allowed during the exam.
9.0 OTHER INFORMATION (continued)

ONLINE INFORMATION:

The Office of the Registrar web site is:
http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca

The Student Development Services web site is:
http://www.sdc.uwo.ca

The Psychology Undergraduate website is:
http://psychology.uwo.ca/newundergradstudentresp.htm

See the above websites regarding the following topics:

- POLICY ON CHEATING AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
- PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS
- POLICY ON ATTENDANCE
- POLICY ON MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES
- POLICY FOR ASSIGNMENTS
- SHORT ABSENCES
- EXTENDED ABSENCES
- DOCUMENTATION
- ACADEMIC CONCERNS
- CALENDAR REFERENCES
LECTURE TOPICS AND ASSOCIATED READINGS

SEPT. 23: METHODS I


SEPT. 30: METHODS II


OCT. 7: METHODS III


OCT. 14: ACCURACY AND BIAS IN RATINGS OF FRIENDS AND STRANGERS I


OCT. 21: ACCURACY AND BIAS IN RATINGS OF FRIENDS AND STRANGERS II


**OCT. 28: MODERATORS OF BEHAVIOUR PREDICTABILITY**


**NOV. 4: SELF-RATINGS VERSUS PEER RATINGS OF BEHAVIOUR**


**NOV. 11: PERCEPTION OF ANIMALS / FACE PERCEPTION I**


NOV. 11:  PERCEPTION OF ANIMALS / FACE PERCEPTION I (continued)


NOV. 18:  FACE PERCEPTION II


NOV. 25 - DEC. 9:  SEMINARS (Note: extra class)

Note. The seminars will be graded on the following components: (a) style of presentation (composure, speed, enthusiasm, etc.), (b) clarity of presentation (organization, intelligibility), (c) completeness of presentation (literature review, analyses, implications, etc.), (d) interest of presentation (use of slides, blackboard, etc.), and (e) skill at answering questions.

The written proposals will be graded on (a) style of proposal (according to APA requirements, punctuation, etc.), (b) clarity of proposal (organization, intelligibility, flow), (c) completeness of proposal (literature review, analyses, implications, etc.), (d) legitimacy and feasibility of the study for testing the hypotheses, (e) appropriateness of the proposed analyses and their interpretation, (f) originality of the study, and (g) importance of the study.