PSY475H1F: Attention and Performance

Instructor   Brett Cochrane (brett.cochrane@mail.utoronto.ca).

Teaching Assistant   Grace Gabriel (grace.gabriel@mail.utoronto.ca)

Time and Location   Lectures will occur Wednesdays 3PM to 6PM at Ramsay Wright Laboratories (RW 143).

Office Hours   Requests to meet with the instructor and the TA can be arranged via email. Meetings will be held online via Zoom – use the below link and passcode at the arranged time:

https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/2751687701

Passcode: 006979

Course Description   This course provides an in-depth overview of scientific research evaluating attention and other processes affecting our experience of the world around us. We review experimental approaches of seminal research and theories of attention, cognition, and memory, with special emphasis on the role of visual attention in human behavior. By the end of this course, the goal is for you to have a strong understanding of the innate yet subtle processes that guide are everyday behaviors, and how scientists go about investigating them.

Prerequisites   PSY201H1 (or equivalent)

PSY270H1/PSY280H1/COG251Y1

Lectures   The first two lectures will be provided to you on Quercus – **there will be NO in person lectures for the first two classes**. All following lectures will take place in person at RW143. Video and audio recordings are welcome.

Course Materials   There is no textbook for this course. Each lecture will be supplemented by readings that will be posted on Quercus.

Quercus   Course content (i.e., announcements, lecture videos, slides, readings, etc.) will be posted on Quercus. Accordingly, be sure to check Quercus regularly.

Class Schedule

Date	Schedule
Sept 15	Lecture 1: Introduction & History
Sept 22	Lecture 2: Spatial Attention I
Sept 29	Lecture 3: Spatial Attention II
Oct 6	Lecture 4: Attentional Control
Oct 13	Lecture 5: Visual Search I
Oct 20	Lecture 6: Visual Search II
Oct 27	**Midterm Exam**
Nov 3	Lecture 7: Feature Integration I
Nov 10	**No Class - Reading Week**
Nov 17	Lecture 8: Feature Integration II
Nov 24	**Review/Research Proposal Due**
Dec 1	Lecture 9: Priming & Conflict I
Dec 8	Lecture 10: Priming & Conflict II
Dec 10-21	**Final Exam**

Assessment Information

Evaluations

Assessment	Value	Due Date
Midterm Exam	25%	Oct 27
Review/Research Proposal	40%	Nov 24
Final Exam	35%	Dec 10-21

Exams   The midterm exam will cover Lectures 1 to 6, and the final exam will be
                     cumulative. Both the midterm and final exams will occur in person. The
                     midterm exam will be held at RW143, and the location of the final exam
                     has yet to be determined (you will be informed via Quercus). All readings
                     and lecture content are testable. The exams will consist of multiple choice,
                     short, and long answer questions. Multiple choice questions will target
                     knowledge of detailed information, and short and long answer questions
                     will target depth of understanding and critical reasoning.

Review/Proposal   For your Review/Research Proposal, you will need to present a thesis
                     based on a brief literature review on a topic covered in the lectures. You
                     will then propose an experiment to evaluate your thesis. Your review
                     should clearly highlight a limitation of the research/theory, and your
                     proposal should experimentally address the proposed limitation. Your
                     research proposal should include a clearly defined research question,
                     proposed method, results, and discussion section. It is **strongly
                     recommended** that you consult either the instructor or TA with your
                     thesis prior to starting. Your overall paper will need to be **2000 words or
                     less**, and be in APA format (double-spaced, 12-pt font, 1" margins). A
                     detailed marking scheme will be available on Quercus.

Course Policies

Late Penalty   Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of **10% per day** of the
                     assessment's initial value. If special consideration is needed, see the
                     "missed deadline" section.

Missed Deadline   Students who miss a deadline should let the instructor know as soon as
                     possible. To declare illness, students should use the illness self-declaration
                     tool on ACORN. Special consideration may also be given to students
                     without doing so, however, this decision will be at the instructor's
                     discretion.

Re-marking   Students that dispute their mark should first contact the TA to clarify why
                     they received the mark they did. If the student is still dissatisfied, they
                     should contact the instructor. The instructor will then re-mark the

assessment. Students should make such requests no later than two weeks after the assessment was returned. It is understood that marking is not always perfect, and I will try to conduct re-marking in an unbiased and fair manner. Note however, re-marking may not increase your grade, and if you request re-marking, your new grade is final. If a student is still dissatisfied with their mark, they should contact the undergraduate coordinator of the Psychology Department.

Religious Accommodations   As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, cultural traditions, and spiritual beliefs. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling academic activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to university policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a course assessment due to a religious observance, please let me know as early as possible, so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Academic Integrity   All students, faculty, and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, citing, and using source material appropriately, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism, representing someone else's words as your own or submitting work you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program, is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to the instructor or TAs for advice on anything you find unclear. Also, see the U of T writing support (www.utoronto.ca/writing) or consult the Code of Behavior on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations.

Ouriginal   Students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (https://uoft.me/pdt-faq). Note

this is a voluntary service, so if you take exception to using it contact the instructor and a different submission arrangement will be made.

COVID-19 Safety   Students are required to wear masks while in all indoor common-use spaces on university property (including the classroom). Individuals with an underlying medical condition are exempt from this policy. Let the instructor know if you have an underlying medical condition that prevents you from wearing a mask so accommodations can be made.