



Department of Psychology
Psychology 455 (L01) – Sensory, Perceptual and Cognitive Aspects of Aging
Winter 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Charles T. (Chip) Scialfa	Lecture Location:	A253
Phone:	403-220-4951	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 9:00-9:50
Email:	scialfa@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	Admin. 151B		
Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

A major goal of the course is to provide you with an advanced understanding of experimental aging research and theory. Just as importantly, it is my hope that through this course, you'll learn to evaluate and express ideas both orally and in writing, to synthesize work from different studies and areas, and to critique the literature. It is a lecture course and a seminar. In that sense, it is your class and what you get out of it depends on you.

Prerequisites

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology
Psyc 353 – Psychology of Aging

Required Text

There is no textbook for this course. Readings (see attached list) have been copied and packaged and are available for purchase at the PSYCHS office (Admin. 170).

Evaluation

There will be one in-term essay exam, counting for 25% of your final mark. There is a term paper (APA style, approximately 30 pages with approximately 25-30 references) that is worth 40% of your mark. To help you in preparing for the writing of this paper, at about the midway point in the term, you must turn in and revise a two-page prospectus that includes reference to the extant literature. This will count for 10% of your mark and the revision of this prospectus is worth 5%. The remaining 20% will be from periodic in-class writing assignments. There are 6 of them. You can drop the lowest mark of these and each of the remaining 5 is worth 4%. Because everyone can drop the lowest mark of the writing assignments, there will be no "make-up" if you miss them.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage

grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic
M Jan 11	Winter Lectures begin Methods
W Jan 13	Methods
F Jan 15	Methods
M Jan 18	Methods Writing Assignment 1
W Jan 20	Sensation and Perception
F Jan 22	Sensation and Perception Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.
M Jan 25	Sensation and Perception
T Jan 26	Last day for registration/change of registration.
W Jan 27	Sensation and Perception
F Jan 29	Sensation and Perception Writing Assignment 2
M Feb 1	Attention
W Feb 3	Attention
F Feb 5	Attention
M Feb 8	Attention Writing Assignment 3
W Feb 10	Reaction Times
F Feb 12	Reaction Times
M Feb 15	Reading Days. No lectures.
W Feb 17	Reading Days. No lectures.
F Feb 19	Reading Days. No lectures.
M Feb 22	Reaction Times
W Feb 24	Reaction Times Writing Assignment 4
F Feb 26	Language Processing
M Mar 1	Essay Exam 1 – Through Reaction Times
W Mar 3	Term Paper Prospectus Due and Reviewed
F Mar 5	Learning
M Mar 8	Learning
W Mar 10	Learning Revised Term Paper Prospectus Due
F Mar 12	Learning Writing Assignment 5
M Mar 15	Memory
W Mar 17	Memory
F Mar 19	Memory
M Mar 22	Memory Writing Assignment 6
W Mar 24	Intelligence
F Mar 26	Intelligence
M Mar 29	Intelligence
W Mar 31	Intelligence
F Apr 2	Good Friday. No lectures. University closed.

M Apr 5	Term Paper Due
W Apr 7	Applied Aging
F Apr 9	Applied Aging
M Apr 12	Applied Aging
W Apr 14	Applied Aging Writing Assignment
R Apr 15	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits
F Apr 16	Winter Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form

and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two (2) credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 15, 2010**.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic:	Phone: 403-220-3911	suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.:	Phone: 403-220-3913	socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates:

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Jan 22nd, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 26th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16th, 2010**.