

# PSY480H5F – Special Topics in Perception

Wednesday 9:00am – 12:00pm

[LEC9101 - Online Synchronous](#)

[LEC0101 – In-Person](#)

## Course Delivery

- Meeting will be conducted in a Dual-Delivery format. We will meet synchronously both in-person and on Zoom.
- Meetings will not be recorded, so attendance will be an important part your success in the course.
- Zoom link and password will be posted in Quercus (main page)
- The course includes required readings (specified pages listed in course outline at end of syllabus).

### Learn Anywhere Guide for Students

<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/students/quercus/learn-anywhere>

University of Toronto tech [requirements for online learning](#)

## Contact Information

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**Taylor Irvine**

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**Office hours: Virtual via Zoom**

Flexible office hours for this course. Please contact to make arrangements

**(Be sure to register for a UTM Zoom account at**

**<https://utoronto.zoom.us>)**

## Course Description

**Topic for 2021:** This course will examine how neurobiological underpinnings of early life experience shape our sensory perception. We will explore the research of 'Critical Periods' of perceptual development including a historical review of how we came to define critical periods, to learning about our current understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms that regulate developmental plasticity.

## Reading Material

Journal article readings will be assigned prior to each round of presentations

## Learning Outcome

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*By the end of this course, students should be able to;*

- **Describe** how researchers have come to define critical periods in visual development and how our understanding has changed over time. how neurons propagate information and communicate to other neurons.
- **Identify** changes in the brain associated with critical period development and periods of heightened plasticity.
- **Analyze** how scientific findings have contributed to our understanding of the biological underpinnings of critical periods.

## Course Evaluation

### **4 assignments & presentations (80%, 20% each)**

In the first half of the, we will be addressing PBL topics in perceptual psychology. Following each of these discussions, students will be assigned into small groups or given an individual assignment. Each **group** will present a summary of work 2 weeks later and each **individual** will submit a brief report (2-3 pages). Each assignment is worth 20% of your grade; the group presentation will consist of 10% of your final grade and the written report will be 10% of your final grade.

### **Participation / Attendance (20%)**

Participation grades will be given considering student's performance on: attending class and group meetings, contributing to class and group discussions, contributing to projects and assignments, providing feedback to other groups and providing feedback.

## Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

**Note:** You don't need to create a new login for Canvas; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to:

<https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Canvas. If you have any general questions regarding Canvas, please visit the following help site:

<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/faculty/canvas>

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **\*\*PLEASE READ\*\***

### **Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process**

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

### **Supporting Documentation**

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

### **Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period**

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions> and follow their procedures.

### **Penalties for Lateness**

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

### **Academic Guidelines**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

### **AccessAbility Services**

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

### **Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer**

#### ***Notice of video recording and sharing (Download permissible; re-use prohibited)***

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. Course materials such as PowerPoint slides and lecture recordings are made available to you for your own study purposes. These materials cannot be shared outside of the class or "published" in any way. Posting recordings or slides to other websites without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

### **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

#### In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

#### On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

#### In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

#### Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

### **Academic Rights**

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

### **Equity Statement**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at [edo.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:edo.utm@utoronto.ca) or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utmsu.ca).

## Course Outline

*Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before.*

### Course Outline

Class	Lecture Topic
1 Sept. 8	Introduction to course: (New Activity 1) What is a critical period?
2 Sept. 15	Group Meetings with Dr. B
3 Sept. 22	<b>Due:</b> Critical Period Presentations
4 Sept. 29	<b>Due:</b> Critical Period Reflections (New activity 2) Multiple periods of plasticity?
5 Oct. 6	Group Meetings with Dr. B
6 Oct. 13	<b>Fall Reading Week – No Lecture</b>
7 Oct. 20	<b>Due:</b> Multiple periods of plasticity Presentations
8 Oct. 27	<b>Due:</b> Critical Period Reflections (New activity 3) Neurological underpinnings of critical periods?
9 Nov. 3	Group Meetings with Dr. B
10 Nov. 10	<b>Due:</b> Presentations Neurological underpinnings of critical periods?
11 Nov. 17	<b>Due:</b> Critical Period Reflections (New activity) Can we manipulate perceptual plasticity?
12 Nov. 24	Group Meetings with Dr. B
Dec. 1	<b>Due:</b> Presentations / Reports of Class Presentations <b>Due:</b> Individual Submissions of Report ( end of term)