FACULTY OF SCIENCE

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC2071

PERCEPTION & COGNITION

SEMESTER 2, 2016

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1. Information about the Course

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4. Aims of the Course

This course introduces students to those areas of Psychology that are more closely concerned with "the mind". These are Perception and Cognition. Perception is concerned with the processes and mechanisms which allow us to respond to our immediate environment, and to know its properties. These range from how far things are away from us or each other to the trajectory of a ball in a game of cricket to a facial expression. It is often a surprise to students to realise how unlike an image on the retina our rich perceptual experience is and how much interesting processing (using about half of the entire cortex of the brain) underlies what seems effortless and immediate. We shall consider a range of issues in this section of the course including the reasons for illusions, perceptual organisation and the way in which we learn to perceive. The cognition part of the course introduces students to theories and methods of investigating the fundamental cognitive processes that underlie attention, memory and thought. Cognitive psychologists study a range of phenomena that include such diverse topics as the factors that influence efficient memory storage and retrieval; the variables that contribute to "information overload"; and the methods people use to solve problems and make decisions. Understanding the perceptual and cognitive processes that underlie human behaviour has a number of important benefits. For example, consider an air traffic controller monitoring plane

	Psychology, enabling you to:	3.2.	Question claims about perceptual and cognitive processes that arise from myth, stereotype, pseudo-science, or untested assumptions.
		3.3.	Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking that includes persistence, open-mindedness, and intellectual engagement.
		3.4.	Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation.
		3.5.	Recognise and defend against the major fallacies of human thinking.
		3.6.	Use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend, and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.
		3.7.	Demonstrate creative and pragmatic solving of problems in the area of perception and cognition.
4.	An intermediate appreciation of values in Psychology, including the ability to:	4.1.	Use information in an ethical manner (e.g. acknowledge and respect the work and intellectual property rights of others through appropriate citations in oral and written communication).

10. Assessment

Assessment Task	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Date of	Feedback

search databases, identify good quality information and write assignments. It will also help you understand plagiarism and how to avoid it. All undergraduate students have to review the ELISE tutorial in their first semester and complete the quiz, but any student can review it to improve their knowledge: http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise.

What is Turnitin?

Turnitin is a checking database which reviews your work and compares it to an international collection of books, journals, Internet pages and other student's assignments. The database checks referencing and whether you have copied something from another student, resource, or off the Internet. Sometimes students submit their work into Turnitin when they hand it in, but academics can also use it to check a student's work when they are marking it. You can find out more about Turnitin here: https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/elearning.

What if plagiarism is found in my work?

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work,

COFA Campus Learning Centre
Email: cofalearningcentre@unsw.edu.au
Phone: 9385 0739

14. Administrative Matters

The *School of Psychology Student Guide*, available on http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/student-guide, contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

Attendance requirements;
Assignment submissions and returns;
Assessments;
Special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
Student Code of Conduct;
Student complaints and grievances;
Student Equity and Disability Unit; and
Occupational Health & Safety.

Students should familiarise themselves with the information contained in this *Guide*.