COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why is it that some people, mostly men, cannot distinguish red socks from green ones? Why does the moon on the horizon appear larger than when it is overhead? How do Magic Eye pictures work? Why does the Mona Lisa's smile seem so elusive? This course addresses such questions by examining biological and psychological studies of the visual and auditory systems. Among the topics we will explore are object recognition; color vision; the perception of depth, size, and movement; the effects of experience on perception; sound localization; and the perception of pitch.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Knowledge:
- Understanding how perception is not reality
- Understand the methods scientists use to ask questions about how the brain works
- Understand what we can learn from visual and auditory illusions
- Understand the hierarchical organization and function of the brain regions responsible for visual and auditory perception

Skills:
- Reading a science textbook
- Interpreting scientific data
- Improving critical thinking

RESOURCES


THE LECTURES

You will be expected to have completed the assigned reading before the lecture with which it is associated. There will be a handout for lectures, which will be posted on the course website by 5pm on the day before a lecture. It is recommended that you have a copy (printed or electronic) of the handout to refer to during lecture. Handouts will not be a substitute for attending lecture. If you miss a lecture, you should talk to a friend in the class so that you will be able to decipher the handout. The lecture slides will be posted on Moodle by midnight the night before lecture. You should also feel free to print them out to refer to during lecture.