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<tr>
<td>Course Title:</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
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<td>Course Code:</td>
<td>PS1061</td>
<td>Course JACS Code:</td>
<td>C 854</td>
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<td>Availability:</td>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Status:</td>
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<td>Pre-requisites:</td>
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<td>Co-requisites:</td>
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<td>Co-ordinator:</td>
<td>Professor Johannes Zanker</td>
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<td>Course Staff:</td>
<td>Prof Johannes Zanker, Dr Szonya Durant</td>
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**Aims:**
To introduce the major concepts of low-level sensory information processing and its relation to the control of behaviour and cognitive function: sensation, perception, motor control, and attentional modulation.

**Learning Outcomes:**
- As the result of successfully completing the course, students will
  - understand the basic conceptual framework and some essential methods of studying the human sensory systems and their relation to cognitive and biological psychology;
  - be able to describe several key mechanisms of sensation, perception, and action
  - be able to relate perceptual mechanisms to cortical structure and function, which will be covered by PS 2061 in more detail
  - have gained an overview over the initial steps of information processing in the human brain as a basis of higher mental processing stages which are covered in PS 1021 and PS 2021

**Course Content:**
Topics covered include: conceptual issues like sensory perception as gateway to the world; information processing, which sensory channels are available humans, and which are not, and why; making sense of the world through sensory integration; attentional modulation of perception; selected topics from visual perception such as deciphering the neural code, illusions as key to reality, brightness, perception of colour, time, motion and depth; auditory perception, touch, taste and smell; the control of eye and head movements as link between perception and action.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:**
10 two-hour lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial. Students will be provided with electronic lecture handouts for each topic, including detailed reading lists, and they are invited to consult research journals. Most lectures are accompanied by special web-pages (http://www.pc.rhul.ac.uk/staff/j.zanker/PS1061/PS1061.htm) that contain further demonstrations and explanations, additional material, and helpful links.

**Details of teaching resources on Moodle:**
Course lecture slides, selected key readings, and links to resources will be placed on Moodle. Additionally, there will be a discussion forum for the coursework and general questions on perception.

**Key Bibliography:**

**Formative Assessment & Feedback:**
Coursework essay will be marked by the tutorial team, who will provide detailed individual feedback. The course co-ordinator will be available to answer questions about course content, and there is a student intranet forum on Moodle. Questions during and after the lectures are strongly encouraged.

**Summative Assessment:**
**Exam** (80%) A two hour exam at the end of the year.
**Coursework** (20%)

**Deadlines:** Contained in the UG Handbook and department web page

The information contained in this course outline is correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change as part of the Department’s policy of continuous improvement and development. Every effort will be made to notify you of any such changes.