Learning Objectives
In completing this project, you will:

- enhance your scientific research skills
- apply your critical thinking and writing skills
- develop your ability to explain the content of scientific journal articles to a general audience

These are important abilities that are highly valued by employers and graduate schools.

Requirements
To complete each assignment, you will search for a peer-reviewed primary research journal article on a topic in sensation or perception, published in 2016-2021. Then you will write a blog post to summarize the article in a way that is understandable to the general public, and explain its relevance or importance.

Research Article
It is strongly recommended that you use the PSYCInfo® database (here is a brief tutorial), rather than Google, to find an appropriate article. The University of Alberta Library’s Psychology subject guide can help step you through the research process.

Some examples of topics in perception include:

- visual perception (e.g., colour perception, motion perception, depth perception, etc.)
- visual illusions
- auditory perception
- music perception
- tactile or haptic perception
- gustatory or olfactory perception
- time perception
- face perception
- synesthesia or multisensory perception
- perception and art
- neuromagic

Although some of these topics are presented in lecture, not all of them are. Your topic does not have to relate directly to course content, but doing so may help you to learn and understand course material.

Another approach is to browse through scientific journals that only publish articles on topics in perception:

- Perception, i-Perception
- ACM Transactions on Applied Perception

Some journals publish articles on a range of topics, including perception (be careful when choosing):

- Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics, Perceptual and Motor Skills
- Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance

Some journals publish on a diverse array of topics in science, and may include articles on perception:

- Nature, Science, PLOS One, Psychological Science
Blog Post

After selecting a relevant article, you will then write a blog-style post that summarizes the findings of the research article and explains its relevance to a general audience. Below are some examples of blogs posts written on perception-related topics (listed from best to worst):

- **Scientific American Illusion Chasers: Lions See These Illusions the Same Way You Do** [more posts here]
- **Mind Hacks: Values, taste perception and psychological blind spots** [more posts here]
- **Psychology Today: How Your Body Changes Your Visual Perception as You Walk**
- **Brain’s Idea: Why ear plugs are great for clubbing and concerts**
- **Why Aren’t You Studying? #TheDress Explained**

The above blog posts are presented so that you can get a feel for what is expected of you. Do not copy any content from these, or from any other blogs.

Another way to think of your blog post is like a press release. In fact, organizations like the Association for Psychological Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science issue press releases to highlight new papers appearing in their journals:

- **APS: Touting Flavor Before Nutrition Encourages Healthy Eating**
- **APS: How Facial Features Can Influence Your Professional Image**
- **AAAS: Synesthesia’s mysterious ‘mingling of the senses’ may result from hyperconnected neurons**

For more information on this approach, including basic content requirements and structuring the information you present, see:

- **Purdue Online Writing Lab: Writing Press Releases**
- **Writing@CSI: Press Releases**

**Format**

Each assignment must be submitted online using eClass. Answers to each assignment must not exceed 500 words. Use complete sentences; do not use point form. You may include images/figures from your source, but they must be appropriately cited. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignment has been properly submitted.

APA style citations and references to your primary sources are required. This is an example of an APA style in-text citation: (Hershlag et al., 1998). This is an example of an APA style reference:


Here are some free online APA style resources:

- the American Psychological Association’s [APA style website](https://apastyle.apa.org)
- the [Purdue Online Writing Lab’s](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl) overview and information on APA formatting and style (like this [APA Style Guidelines Overview](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/style-guidelines/apa-guidelines.html))
- the University of Alberta Library’s [APA Citation Style subject guide](https://library.ualberta.ca/apa-citation-style)

Most aspects of APA formatting (e.g., fonts, spacing, margins, etc.) do not apply to this assignment. Use direct quotes from your sources sparingly, if at all; any direct quotes must be properly cited in APA style.

Do not copy and paste from any other source (e.g., journal article, textbook, lecture notes, website, etc.). This is plagiarism; you will receive a mark of zero, and you will be prosecuted under the terms of the Code of Student Behaviour. See [The Fine Print](#) section below for academic resources that will help you avoid plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct.
Technical Support
“Technical problems” are not accepted as an excuse for late or incomplete assignments. IST eClass Support has Using eClass for Students tutorials, ranging from System Setup to Submitting Assignments. For help with eClass, see IST’s eClass support knowledgebase or contact eClass support. For other IT problems, contact IST’s helpdesk.

Due Dates & Late Policy
- Blog Post Assignment #1 (10 marks, worth 5%) -- due Tuesday, February 23 at 12:20 p.m.
- Blog Post Assignment #2 (10 marks, worth 5%) -- due Tuesday, April 6 at 12:20 p.m.
Each assignment must be submitted by the end of class time (not at midnight) on the day in which it is due, or it will be considered late. Late assignments will lose 1 mark per 24-hour period, starting immediately after the due date & time. That is, if you submit your assignment 1 minute late, you will lose 1 mark. If you submit your assignment 23 hours and 59 minutes late, you will still lose only 1 mark. But if you submit your assignment 24 hours and 1 minute late, you will lose 2 marks. If you edit or make any changes to your eClass submission in any way after the due date & time, you will receive a late penalty.

Do not email assignments to the instructor or the TA. Late (or early) assignments may be submitted via eClass. However, after 6 days past the due date, you will no longer be able to submit your assignment online. If you have exceptional extenuating circumstances (e.g., you cannot submit your assignment because you have alien hand syndrome, or the Infinity Gauntlet eradicated you from existence), please contact the instructor.

Scoring Rubric
Each post is graded out of a total of 10 marks: 2 marks for APA style and presentation, and 8 marks for content.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>APA Style</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>APA style errors in citation and/or reference.</td>
<td>No APA style errors in citation or reference.</td>
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<th>Content</th>
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<tr>
<td>No Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post does not relate to sensation or perception, or source was published before 2016, or no post submitted.</td>
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The Fine Print

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. These resources from Student Conduct and Accountability, and the University of Alberta Library can help:

- Academic Integrity: Introduction to Academic Culture - videos on citing, quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing
- Plagiarism - plagiarism definition, and tips for avoiding plagiarism
- Citing, Quoting, Paraphrasing & Summarizing - how-to document from the UAlberta Centre for Writers
- Foundational Research Tutorials: Plagiarism - video introduction to plagiarism and citing
- Don’t Do It (Cheating & Plagiarism) - Faculty of Science document on academic misconduct and resulting penalties


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