

Perception and Attention

Brief description of course content (According to the programme's verification report)

Introduction to perception. Perception of colour, space, movement and form. Object recognition. Sustained attention, vigilance and attention to space. Executive functions of attention.

Learning outcomes

Cognitive. To understand the basic principles of visual perception. To understand the basic principles of attention. To understand, know how to describe and recognise basic effects on perception and attention, as well as experimental procedures in the field. To identify and compare different explanations of the diverse aspects of perception and attention. To understand the current state of research regarding these mechanisms and processes.

Procedural. To know how to use the terms and concepts from the Psychology of Perception and Attention appropriately. To deduce, identify and describe the behavioural phenomena and effects produced by the most common experimental conditions. To identify the variables involved in the most relevant perception-attention effects. To critically evaluate the validity of the different conceptions about these processes. To link attentional processes with perceptual processes and other fundamental processes in Psychology. To understand the research strategies regarding these processes.

Behavioural. To make attention and perception be considered as fundamental psychological processes for the individual's adaptation to their environment. To value the importance of attention and perception in Applied Psychology, including clinical, development and social psychology. To ensure that a scientific attitude is adopted in the way of dealing with normal and pathological psychology. To ensure respect for the diversity of conceptual approaches to a phenomenon. To respect research ethics.

Planned learning activities

Theory Syllabus

Lecturers Ana Chica, María Jesús Funes and Andrés Catena:

1) THEORETICAL SYLLABUS

BLOCK I. VISUAL PERCEPTION

TOPIC 1. Introduction: Perceptual process. Stages. Anatomical basis. Measurements.

TOPIC 2. Perception of colour, depth, size and movement.

TOPIC 3. Perception of shapes and patterns. Face perception.

BLOCK II. ATTENTION

TOPIC 4. Introduction. Attention and Perception.

TOPIC 5. Attentional selection

TOPIC 6. Control and awareness

NOTE: Andrés Catena (M1) will begin their classes with Block II, followed by Block I.

Lecturers Fabiano Botta and Daniel Sanabria:

Block 1. Perception

Topic 1: What is perception? Introduction to the concept of perception.

Topic 2: How do we perceive? Theories on perception. Perception of objects and their fundamental characteristics.

Block 3: Introduction to the neural bases of perception

Block 2. Attention

Topic 4: What is attention? Introduction to the concept of attention.

Topic 5: Theories of attention. Attentional processes: selection, orientation, control and vigilance.

Topic 6: Introduction to the neural bases of the attentional processes.

Practical Syllabus

Activities related to Psychophysics, the Signal Detection Theory and classic paradigms used in the study of perception and attention.

Reading and debate about applied research in perception and attention.