

Sensation & Perception
Psychology 315E-H1, Summer 2005
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:00-9:20pm, Johnson Center 127

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Required Textbook

Goldstein, E.B. (2002). Sensation & Perception, 6th edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth.

Objectives

Sensation and Perception serves as a broad survey course designed to introduce you to the mechanisms involved in perceiving the world and show you how your own action upon the world influences these perceptions. Undergraduate psychology students are just beginning to learn how people influence their own view of the world, both metaphorically and physically. This course explores this idea in depth for very low-level processes such as vision and hearing. We will cover real life topics that demonstrate how bottom-up and top-down processing interact to give us our perceived reality. Take, for example, simply viewing the world around us as we walk through it. We see things like trees and buildings as standing still, despite their being images moving across our retina. When tracking a bird flying in the sky, we perceive it as moving, despite the image remaining static on our retina. It is certainly beneficial to us as organisms to be able to navigate through our environment differentiating between moving and stationary objects, but there are several theories for why this occurs. You will be introduced to these theories in moderate detail and will be able to compare the merits and drawbacks of the evidence for each. The format, schedule, and grading procedures for this course are clearly laid out in the syllabus below.

This course introduces different techniques of basic psychological research. Methodologies covered in this class include brain imaging, single cell recording, and a host of behavioral procedures. You will be presented with results from experiments dealing with course topics and asked to react to them in class. The goal is to get you to begin to think carefully about the methodology and conclusions involved in experimental psychology. In class demonstrations of perceptual experiences, like how taste and smell interact, will give you the chance to experience the phenomenon you are studying first hand.

The majority of class periods I will be lecturing and doing demonstrations with you. These interactions in addition to your reading of the required text, outside of class, will provide you with the knowledge necessary to complete the papers and quizzes that will comprise your grade. The grading system is clearly laid out in this syllabus. Please review it carefully.

Class Attendance and Participation

As Woody Allen once said, "Eighty percent of success is showing up." Attendance at and participation in class meetings is absolutely necessary for a good learning experience. If you miss 1 or 2 classes for any reason, your grade will be lowered. If you miss you miss 3 or more classes for any reason, then you will receive an F in the class.

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Reading Assignments

Reading assignments are to be completed before you come to class on the assigned day. They provide you with background knowledge to understand lectures and participate in class discussions. It is very important that you keep up with the reading assignments. Do not get behind!

Graded Assignments

Quizzes

There will be 11 take-home, open-book quizzes on the reading material assigned for that day, 10 of which will count toward your grade. I will drop your lowest quiz score. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and will consist of multiple-choice questions. Quizzes are designed to provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate that you read the assignment carefully and have a clear understanding of it. One quiz will be due at the beginning of each class period. If you do not complete a quiz before class time on the day it is due, then you cannot make-up the quiz. I will not accept late quizzes for any reason *especially* absence.

Papers

There will be two assignments that are posed as written questions to be answered outside of class in essay form and turned in for a grade. Each paper will be worth 100 points and should be 3-4 pages in length. Papers are designed to provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate that you possess a clear understanding of the concepts being studied in class. A good paper will address ALL parts of the question in an integrated fashion and will be free of grammatical or spelling errors. Papers are due at the beginning of class as indicated on the syllabus schedule below. Papers MUST be typed, double-spaced, 12-point, Times font, one-inch margins all around. 5 points will be deducted from the grade on any paper that does not follow these guidelines. I will not accept late papers for any reason *especially* absence.

Academic Honesty

Rollins College defines academic dishonesty as “representing another's work as one's own, active complicity in such falsification, or violating test conditions” (Rollins College Catalog, Student Records Web Site, http://www.rollins.edu/studentrecords/main/academic_regulations.html, 8/20/03). If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in this class on any assignment, you will receive an F in this class and the incident will be reported to the Dean. **All graded assignments should reflect an individual's independent work.**

Grading

You begin with zero points (or an F) in this class. You earn your grade by turning in papers and quizzes and reduce it by missing class. All of your points will be added to together to determine your grade.

Quizzes =	33%	(100 points)
Papers =	67%	(200 points)

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	280-300	B+	260-269	C+	230-239	D+	200-209	F	0-179
A-	270-279	B	250-259	C	220-229	D	190-199		
		B-	240-249	C-	210-219	D-	180-189		

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Problems

If you have any questions or concerns about the course or your performance in it, please schedule an appointment. I would really like a chance to meet you all and, if you are having problems with the course, help in any way I can.

Disclaimer

The schedule laid out in this syllabus can be altered at any time by me and only me.

Sensation and Perception Summer 2005	
5-Jul	Structure of Visual System Chapter 2
6-Jul	Low Level Visual Processing Chapter 3
7-Jul	Higher Level Visual Processing Chapter 4
12-Jul	Perceiving Objects & Agnosias Chapter 5
13-Jul	Perceiving Color & Color Blindness Chapter 6
14-Jul	Perceiving Depth & Size Chapter 7
19-Jul	Structure of Auditory System Chapter 10
20-Jul	Auditory Localization & Scene Analysis Chapter 11
21-Jul	Speech Processing Chapter 12
26-Jul	Cutaneous Sensation Chapter 13
27-Jul	Chemical Sensation Chapter 14
28-Jul	Perception and Action Links Chapter 9
Paper Due Dates	Paper #1 – July 14 Paper #2 – July 28