
Instructor: Joshua Dobias, Ph.D.
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Class Time: TF 8:40-10:00am in SEC-111
Office Hours: MWTh 9:00-10:00am or by appointment

Course Description

The study of how humans (and some other animals) sense and perceive their environment. Topics include seeing (vision), hearing (audition), tasting (gustation), smelling (olfaction), feeling (somatosensation), and the variety of state-of-the-art methods used by psychologists to study these senses. Illusions and other sensory and perceptual phenomena are treated.

Course Information

When you tell someone you are taking a psychology course or that you are a psychology major, the typical response may be “are you analyzing me?” or “can you read my mind?” but that is only an outsider’s view of what psychology is as a field. As you have probably found in other psychology courses, psychology is a broad field with several sub-areas that all serve to make psychology a behavioral science. This course will introduce you to the sub-area of Sensation & Perception. Every moment of our lives we are bombarded with sensory information from the world around us. Through vision, audition, olfaction, gustation, and somatosensation, the brain takes in this sensory information and interprets it to form our perceptions of the world.

Text**Required:**

Wolfe, J., et al. (2012). *Sensation & Perception*. 3rd ed., Sunderland, MA. Sinauer Associates, Inc.

- Available at [Rutgers Bookstore](#) for approximately \$120.00.
- Available from [Amazon](#) for approximately \$100.00.
- Can be purchased online as an e-book from [CourseSmart](#) for approximately \$58.00.

Requirements

- Three exams (lowest of the three will be dropped).....60% of final grade
- Comprehensive final exam (cannot be dropped).....40% of final grade

Grades

A	90% or greater	C	70%-76%
B+	87%-89%	D	60%-69%
B	80%-86%	F	59% or lower
C+	77%-79%		

Grades (continued)

Grades will be calculated by taking the average from each component and multiplying it by the percentage of the final grade for that component (see below). For example, the exam average will be multiplied by .60.

$$FinalGrade = (ExamAvg \times 0.6) + (Final \times 0.4)$$

Missed Exams

If you must miss an exam, and you have a **verifiable excuse**, please let me know prior to the exam. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, and are unable to tell me before the exam, please let me know as soon as possible. **Oversleeping is not an emergency!!** If you do have a verifiable excuse, you will have **three** weekdays from the date of the exam to make up the exam that you missed.

Sakai

The course website can be found at: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/0287718f-ca30-4179-819d-b631c3e9e3f3>

Cancellation Policy

If the university is closed on the day of an exam, the exam will be on the next day that the class meets.

Office of Disability Services

The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all University programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Office of Disability Services (ODS). Contact ODS at (732) 932-2848 or dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu If you have received Accommodation Letters for this course from ODS, please provide me with that information privately so that we can review those accommodations.

Plagiarism and Cheating (from university guidelines)

Various ways in which academic integrity can be violated are described below. The comments and examples within each section provide explanations and illustrative material, but do not exhaust the scope of possible violations. For context and specific details, the University Code of Student Conduct (<http://polcomp.rutgers.edu/judaff/ucsc.shtml>) as well as the Office of Student Conduct (<http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu>) websites should be consulted.

A. Cheating

Cheating is the use of impermissible and/or unacknowledged materials, information, or study aids in any academic activity. Using books, notes, calculators, conversations with others, etc., when their use is restricted or forbidden, constitutes cheating. Similarly, students may not request others (including commercial term paper companies) to conduct research or prepare any work for them. Students may not submit identical work, or portions thereof, for credit or honors more than once without prior approval of the instructor to whom the work is being submitted for the second or subsequent time.

B. Fabrication

Fabrication is the falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic work. "Invented" information may not be used in any laboratory report or other academic work without authorization from the instructor. It is improper, for example, to analyze one sample in an experiment and "invent" data based on that single experiment for several more required analyses. Students must also acknowledge the actual source from which cited information was obtained. A student should not, for example, reproduce a quotation from a book review and claim that the quotation was obtained from the book itself.

C. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks, or by appropriate indentation, and must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline. Acknowledgment is also required when material from any source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "to paraphrase Plato's comment..." and conclude with a footnote or appropriate citation to identify the exact reference. A footnote acknowledging only a directly quoted statement does not suffice to notify the reader of any preceding or succeeding paraphrased material. Information that is common knowledge, such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc., need not be cited; however, the sources of all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged. In addition to materials specifically cited in the text, other materials that contribute to one's general understanding of the subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography.

Sometimes, plagiarism can be a subtle issue. Students should be encouraged to discuss any questions about what constitutes plagiarism with the faculty member teaching the course.

D. Denying others access to information or material

It is a violation of academic integrity to deny others access to scholarly resources or to deliberately impede the progress of another student or scholar. Examples of violations of this type include giving other students false or misleading information; making library material unavailable to others by stealing or defacing books or journals; deliberately misplacing or destroying reserve materials; and altering someone else's computer files.

E. Facilitating violations of academic integrity

It is a violation of academic integrity for a student to aid others in violating academic integrity. A student who knowingly or negligently facilitates a violation of academic integrity is as culpable as the student who receives the impermissible aid, even if the former student does not benefit from the violation.

Date	Topic or Assignment	Reading
Jan. 17	Introduction to Course / Discuss Syllabus	Syllabus
Jan. 20 Jan. 24	Introduction	Chapter 1
Jan. 27 Jan. 31	First Steps in Seeing	Chapter 2
Feb. 3 Feb. 7 Feb. 10	Spatial Vision	Chapter 3
Feb. 14 Feb. 17 Feb. 21	Perceiving and Recognizing Objects	Chapter 4
Feb. 24	Exam # 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
Feb. 28 March 2 March 6	Perception of Color	Chapter 5
March 9	Space Perception and Binocular Vision	Chapter 6
March 13	Spring Break	-----
March 16	Spring Break	-----
March 20	Space Perception and Binocular Vision	Chapter 6
March 23 March 27	Attention and Scene Perception	Chapter 7
March 30 April 3	Motion Perception	Chapter 8
April 6	Exam # 2	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
April 10 April 13	Hearing Physiology and Hearing in the Environment	Chapters 9 and 10
April 17	Touch	Chapter 13
April 20	Olfaction	Chapter 14
April 24	Taste	Chapter 15
April 27	Exam # 3	Ch. 9, 10, 13, 14, 15
May 1	Reading Day	
Final Exam May 8 8:00 -11:00 https:// finalexams. rutgers.edu/	Comprehensive Final Exam	Chapters 1-10 and 13-15