

General Information

Psychology 301 Summer 2012

Dr. Cordelia Aitkin

Monday - Thursday, 12:20-2:15 pm Beck Hall Room 253

Contact Information

Office hours: Busch Psychology : Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 am or by appointment. Appointments may be made by email or after class.

Email: cdaitkin@rci.rutgers.edu. Feel free to send an email whenever you need to, but be aware that it may take up to two business days to respond. If you have not received a response after 2 business days, please resend the email. Lengthy or complex issues will be discussed in person, during office hours.

Goals and Policies

Learning Goals:

1. Develop scientific and critical reasoning skills.
2. Learn about the fundamental theories and approaches to the field of perception.
3. Understand some of the links between mind and brain, and how those links are discovered.
4. Increase participation in lecture class by asking questions and contributing to discussions.

Class Policies:

Exam requirements: Students are required to take all exams. If you miss an exam for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness) you must submit an official excuse (e.g., doctor's note). A make-up exam, composed entirely of short essay questions, will be given at the time of the final. If you do not submit an excuse note, a grade of 0 will be assigned and no make-up will be given. Once you begin work on an exam it will count. No exam scores will be dropped. So, if you are ill, do not take the exam -- see your doctor! If you miss the final exam for a legitimate reason, a make-up will be scheduled. There will be no excused absences from the final.

In the interest of fairness to all, no questions will be answered during exams. To do so is equivalent to giving some students help or hints at the expense of other students. If you believe you have spotted a typographical error, raise your hand and report the question number to a proctor.

Missed classes: You are responsible for material covered in classes that you may miss. To find out what was covered borrow notes from another student. Then, to discuss material, ask questions, or get additional explanations, come to office hours or make an appointment.

Grading

Papers: 3 papers worth 10% each. See [here](#) for an explanation of the papers; this is in the folder "Details about the Papers" under the "Resources" tab.

Hourly exams: 3 exams (see syllabus for dates). The first two exams are worth 20% each, and the final is worth 30%

Grade cutpoints are based on the percentage of total points earned from exams and papers as follows:

A: 86-100%. B+: 81-85%. B: 70-80%. C+: 65-69%. C: 60-64%. D: 50-59%. F: <50%

These cutpoints will apply to everyone. No adjustments in cutpoints will be made for individual students.

Ten Helpful Hints -- Please Read

1. The most important requirement for doing well in this class is to attend class. Lecture attendance is crucial.
2. The course content is cumulative so if you miss class, your understanding of material in subsequent classes will be compromised.
3. Ask questions in lecture if you're confused. New material relies on the concepts already developed.
4. Ask questions for information, to test your own knowledge and to develop critical skills. If you're not convinced by an argument, say so. Answer questions that are posed in lecture.
5. Make sure you understand the main points of each lecture and the main points of the reading material. You should be able to understand how specific examples and specific details relate to the main themes. Test yourself by writing a short summary or an outline of the lecture. Don't rely on the feeling that you know what's going on. See if you can state the main points.
6. Each lecture builds on the material of the prior lectures. Review your notes, with special emphasis on the main themes, before coming to class.
7. When reading the text pay particular attention to the key words and to the graphs and figures. This is where the authors are putting the most important information.
8. Pace your reading wisely. Do not leave it all for the last minute.
9. For individual help, see me after class, or during office hours, or make an appointment.
10. If you would like to discuss exam performance, bring your exam to office hours. Often there is a pattern to the errors that can be diagnosed only by examining your performance.

Schedule

The material covered in the course is cumulative. Ideas introduced in the first few lectures will be amplified and developed throughout the semester. The required reading overlaps only in part with the corresponding lectures. Some issues developed at length in lecture may be given scant attention in the text while some issues discussed in detail in the text will not be covered in lecture. There will also be some points on which text and lecture do not agree and these will be described as we get to them. The differences between the text and lecture are as it should be: the

text and the lecture complement each other, they are not intended to be redundant. "Posted readings" (see below) refers to material to be posted here under "Resources".

Date	Lecture Topics/ Assessments due	Readings due
<u>Unit 1: Origin and nature of the study of perception</u>		
May 29	Introduction to major themes; Fundamental problem of perception	"The Itch" (posted)
May 30	Approaches to the study of perception	Ch 13 (pp 363-377) + book website, ch 13
May 31	Mental life and neural events	"Face-blind" (posted)
June 4	Fechner and psychophysics First paper due	Chapter 1 + book website, ch 1
June 5, 6	Visual detection	Ch 2 (pp 31-42; 48-53)+book website Ch2
June 7	Unit 1 EXAM	
<u>Unit 2: Early vision</u>		
June 11	Color	Ch 5 + book website Ch5
June 12	Mach Bands; intro to receptive fields	Ch 2 pp 42-48 + book website Ch2
June 13, 14	Spatial vision: psychophysics and neurophysiology	Ch 3 + book website Ch3
June 18	Lightness, Brightness Second paper due	Adelson (2000), posted
June 19	Mid-level vision	Ch 4 to page 106 + book website Ch4
June 20	Object recognition	Ch 4, 106 to end
June 21	Unit 2 EXAM	
<u>Unit 3: Aspects of vision and audition</u>		
June 25	Perception of depth and stereo	Ch 6 + book website Ch6 + Posted readings
June 26	Attention and scene perception	Ch 7 + book website Ch7
June 27	Perception of motion and location	Ch 8 + book website Ch8 +Posted readings
June 28	Hearing	Ch 9 + book website Ch9
July 2	Hearing (continued) Third Paper Due	Ch 10 + book website Ch9
July 3	Speech perception	Ch 11, + book website Ch. 11
July 5	Final Exam	