

SYLLABUS

Course

Sensation and Perception Lab

01:830:302:04

Spring 2012

Wednesday 3:20 - 6:20PM

Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment.

Office: Psychology Building Room 135

General goals for the course

1. To provide an opportunity to experience perceptual phenomena firsthand.
2. To learn how to perform data collection, and basic data manipulation and analysis.
3. To begin to think about experimental design.
4. To learn how to use software tools to analyze and plot data.
5. To introduce the practice of scientific writing.

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class Sensation & Perception (01:830:301). The conceptual and theoretical basis for the exercises and demonstrations are developed in lecture. For this reason, concurrent or past registration in Sensation & Perception is required.

Class website

- The class has a Sakai website, where the latest course information is posted. The PowerPoint slides for the classes will also be posted there, and will be accessible after the labs.
- The class website also has this syllabus and the lab assignments.
- Grades will be posted in Gradebook 2 on sakai.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on three criteria:

1. Attendance (see Attendance Policy below)
2. Weekly lab assignments (100 points)
3. An original project report completed during the last several class meetings (100 points).

Every assignment will count towards your grade. There are no tests or quizzes planned. *Grades for this course will not be curved or scaled.*

The criteria for grading your work will be:

- Effort and class participation
- Demonstration of progress in understanding and using software tools
- Clarity of graphs
- Clarity of writing
- Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual concepts introduced in the labs

Final Project: The final project consists of a full laboratory report, based on an original experiment carried out in class during the final weeks of the semester. The report will earn a letter grade (A, B+, B, C+, C, D, F).

Weekly Assignments: We will be working on labs at each class meeting. After each lab is completed (data collection and analysis), you will be assigned a write-up of the lab. Each write-up must be saved as a MS Word file and uploaded to sakai (as an attachment) **before 3:00PM the day of the next class meeting**. These write-ups will consist of brief (1-2 page) reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests, etc.), results and/or conclusions.

Students who submit an assignment on time and receive a failing grade will have the option of submitting one revised version within one week of receipt of the graded assignment. The revised assignment will then be graded. No revisions of a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week delay. No subsequent revisions will be accepted. *I will not accept revisions on assignments that earned a passing grade on first submission, or that were initially submitted late.*

The weekly assignments will be graded on a “P” scale:

- P+ Excellent work
- P Good, pass
- P- Minor problems, needs improvement
- F Fail, requires redo

Weekly assignment scores will be used to adjust the grade earned on the final project. A half letter grade will be added for 3 P+'s accumulated during the semester. A half letter grade will be deducted for 3 P-'s accumulated during the semester. If an F is not redone, it will also cause a half letter grade deduction.

- 3 P+ Add one-half letter grade
- P No points added or deducted
- 3 P- Deduct one-half letter grade
- F Deduct one-half letter grade if left uncorrected

All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by the individual student. Collaborative reports will be assigned 0 points (an F grade). If in doubt, refer to: academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers

Attendance Policy

If you miss a lab meeting for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness, religious holiday) you must bring an official excuse note (e.g. note from a physician or dean). This will excuse you from performing that part of the assignment. Missed assignments that are not excused will earn an F. *You must arrive on time to class.* Excessive lateness prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the lab projects. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late you will not be allowed to enter and participate that day, and your absence will be counted as unexcused.

Students with Disabilities

Full disability policies and procedures are available at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

Schedule of Labs

The following is a rough schedule of the course. Amendments may be made as the course progresses.

January 25	Perception of line length
February 1	Prism adaptation
February 8	Center of gravity
February 15	Pitch discrimination
February 22	Extrapolation of motion
February 29	Crowding effect
March 7	Library search
March 14	SPRING RECESS – no class
March 21	P illusion
March 28	Shape perception
April 4	Design final project, abstract, title page MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE YOU LEAVE CLASS
April 11	Data collection for final project
April 18	Finish data collection, data analysis
April 25	Open class hours for consultation
May 2	Final report due