

Sensation and Perception Lab

01:830:302:01:F12

Fall 2012

Monday 3:20 – 6:20 pm

Instructor: Nicholas Ross

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Office Hours: By appointment, Busch Psychology Building, Rm 219.

SAS Goals



This course has been certified as satisfying four of the Writing and Communication Learning Outcome Goals (including WCR and WCD) of the SAS Core Curriculum.

Specifically, students will be able to:

- a) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR);
- b) Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD);
- c) Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly;
- d) Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

General goals for the course:

1. To provide an opportunity to experience perceptual phenomena first hand.
2. To learn how to design, conduct, analyze, and write-up experiments.
3. To learn how to use software tools to analyze and plot data.

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class PSYCH-301. The conceptual and theoretical basis for the exercises and demonstrations are developed in lecture. For this reason, concurrent or past registration in PSYCH-301 is required.

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of sensation of perception. Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- have a basic understanding of the methods and techniques related to research design
- be able to use basic statistics and statistical software to analyze data
- be able to interpret the results of the statistical analyses
- produce an APA-style empirical paper.

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on three things:

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

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
- Ability to learn and use APA formatting

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. doctor's note). This will excuse you from performing that part of the assignment. Missed assignments that are not excused will be given a failing grade. ***You must arrive on time to class.*** Excessive lateness prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the lab projects. If you are more than 30 minutes late you will not be allowed to enter and participate that day and your absence will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Final Project:

The final project is the writing of a full laboratory report based on an original experiment carried out in class during the final weeks of the semester. These reports will be given 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 which will be due at an announced time. Write-ups will often consist of brief (1-2 page) reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests, etc.), results and conclusions. Late write-ups will not be accepted.

Students who hand in the assignment on time and receive a failing grade will be given the option of handing in one revised version within one week of receipt of the graded assignment. The revised report will then be graded. No revisions of a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week delay, and no subsequent revisions will be accepted after the first revision, although I will be available to meet with you to discuss the material and your performance. You may not revise a P grade to receive a P+.

The weekly assignments will be graded on the "P" scale:

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

Scores on these weekly assignments will be used to adjust the grade given 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 subtracted 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+'s: Add one-half letter grade
- P: No points added or deducted
- 3 P-'s: Deduct one-half letter grade
- F: Deduct one-half letter grade if left uncorrected

In addition, I will monitor how well each student improves and learns over the course of the semester and I will take that into consideration when giving the final grade.

All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by the individual student. Collaborative reports will be given an F grade. Please see Academic Dishonesty Policy below.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

In science, there is absolutely no room for fraud or untruth. Our job as scientists is to search out facts, not just for ourselves but for society as a whole. Consequently, you should be very clear that, just as I expect you to learn about the topic matter, I also expect you to learn about scientific honesty. In the work that you present to me, falsifying, plagiarism, or copying without attribution will not be tolerated. Intentional ethical violations will result in failure for the material in question. Please check the school guidelines for further clarification of violations.

Take a 20 minute interactive-tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity,
<http://sccweb.scc-net.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/Intro.html>

Schedule of Labs:

The following is a rough schedule of the course. Changes and amendments may be made as the course progresses.

September 10 th	Introduction to the course, Lab 1: Perception of line length (Graphs & Tables)
September 17 th	Lab 2: Pitch discrimination (Method, Results)
September 24 th	Lab 3: Center of gravity (Introduction)
October 1 st	Lab 4: Prism Adaptation (Method)
October 8 th	Lab 5: Extrapolation of Motion (Results)
October 15 th	Lab 6: Attention Shift (Discussion)
October 22 nd	Lab 7: Crowding (Results)
October 29 th	Lab 8: P-illusion (Title Page, Abstract, and Discussion)

November 5 th	Lab 9: Design final project, abstract, title
November 12 th	Data collection for final projects
November 19 th	Data analysis for final projects
November 26 th	LAST DAY---Turn in final projects

All course materials can be found on <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> after you log in. It is expected that you print out ALL materials before class. The printer in the classroom is for printing out SPSS output and data-related materials ONLY.

If you decide to stay enrolled in this class after receiving this syllabus, I will assume you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.