

## **Sensation and Perception Lab**

**01:830:302:B6**

**Summer 2013**

**Tues/Thurs 6:00 – 10:00 pm, Psychology Building Room 105**

**Instructor:** Peter Pantelis

**Contact (by e-mail):** petercp@eden.rutgers.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

### **General goals for the course:**

The aim of this course is to provide hands-on experience and training in the methodologies, experimental designs, and analytical methods that are commonly applied to research in sensation and perception. Most of the course will be devoted to running some classic experiments in class, analyzing the data, and interpreting the results.

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.

**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;

## **Grading:**

Your final grade will be based on three things:

1. Attendance and completion of labs
2. Final project
3. Unit assignments for each class meeting

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, and to effectively paraphrase

## **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is mandatory because so much of the class depends on the hands-on experience of running in the experiments. In addition, you will work on data analysis and written assignments during class, so that if questions come up you will have the opportunity to ask for help. If you need to miss a class with a good excuse, please let me know in advance. One absence (with prior notice) will not adversely affect your grade. Additional absences, or absences without prior notice, will result in a reduction of your grade.

If you have a serious and legitimate personal issue (such as a medical emergency) that results in you missing multiple classes, you will need to contact a dean for undergraduates. The dean can then assess the situation and potentially help us to decide on a suitable plan for making up missed class time and making special arrangements for the completion of assignments. Otherwise, I cannot allow multiple absences without reducing your grade. There are simply too few class meetings in this summer session.

## **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).

## **Unit Assignments:**

After each lab is completed during a class meeting (data collection and analysis), you will be required to complete a written assignment, which will be due at an announced time.

These assignments will typically consist of writing one section of a journal-style paper (such as the “methods” section, or the “discussion”). All laboratory assignments must be completed by the individual student. Late assignments will not be accepted without an explicit request (and granting) of an extension.

Because our class meetings are quite long, you will have time to write a draft of your assignment toward the end of class. You should demonstrate to me that you have at least made extensive progress on your assignment before you are dismissed, preferably with a completed draft. Because of this policy, there will be little excuse for submitting assignments late.

Many errors that students make on these assignments are quite typical, and therefore a “workshop” style of class will allow me to bring these common mistakes to everyone's attention when I encounter them multiple times.

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.

**Sakai** will be a very important tool for communication within the class and the dissemination of announcements and materials, so please check it periodically. Lecture slides will contain important information for the completion of assignments, and will be posted to sakai after class. Written assignments will all be submitted to sakai: *I require that they be submitted in PDF format. This is so that I can open the file on any computer, and so that your figures all have the appearance you intend (no format conversion issues on different versions of Word, etc.).* If you do not submit in the proper format, I will not grade your paper.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

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. 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>

Current academic integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Being able to effectively paraphrase source material, and properly attribute credit through citation, is a critical aspect of academic honesty.

### **Schedule of Labs:**

The schedule of units is, tentatively, as follows (subject to change at my discretion). The associated writing assignment for each unit is also given here (in parentheses).

May 28	Introduction to the course Lab 1: Perception of line length (Graphs & Tables)
May 30	Lab 2: Pitch discrimination (Method, Results)
June 4	Lab 3: Center of gravity (Introduction)
June 6	Lab 4: Prism Adaptation (Method)
June 11	Lab 5: Extrapolation of Motion (Results)
June 13	Lab 6: Attention Shift (Discussion)
June 18	Lab 7: Crowding (Results)
June 20	Lab 8: P-illusion (Title Page, Abstract, and Discussion)
June 25	Lab 9: Design final project, abstract, title
June 27	Data collection for final projects
July 2	Data analysis for final projects
July 4	LAST DAY---Submit final projects