

# Sensation and Perception Lab

01:830:302:B6 Summer 2013

Busch Psychology Building, Rm 105

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

**Instructor:** Nicholas Kleene

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**Office Hours:** By appointment only, Busch Psychology Building, Rm 123.



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.

## **Class website:**

- The class has a Sakai website, where the latest course information is posted. The powerpoints 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 the gradebook on the website.

### **Grading:**

Your final grade will be based on three things:

1. Attendance (see Attendance Policy below) (10%)
2. Weekly lab assignments (used to adjust final project grade)
3. An original project report and presentation completed during the last several class meetings (90%)

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 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 that is due at 10 PM the night before the next class period. 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.

Students who hand in the assignment on time 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. *Revising an assignment does not guarantee a higher grade.* No revisions of an 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.

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

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.

### **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 20 minutes late you will not be allowed to enter and participate that day and your absence will be counted as an unexcused absence.

### **Schedule of Labs:**

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

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	Design final project + create lab manuals
June 27	Data collection + analysis
July 2	Finish remaining analysis + individual group meetings
July 4	Final projects due

**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.

**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.**