

General Information and Syllabus

Learning Goals:

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

Book: Sensation and Perception, 3rd edition. Wolfe JM, Kluender KR, Levi DM et al. (2012). Sinauer Associates. ISBN - 978-0-87893-572-7.

Book website: <http://sites.sinauer.com/wolfe3e/home/startF.htm>. Useful! Contains some demos and essays.

Course Website: on Sakai

Instructor: Min Zhao

Classroom: Livingston campus, LSH-A142

Class schedule: Mon-Thurs, 10:10am-12:05, May 28th – July 4th.

Office hours: TBA and by appointment.

Email: minzhao@rci.rutgers.edu. Lengthy or complex issues will be discussed in person, after class or during office hours.

Missed classes: Try not to miss classes, since your grade will be mainly based on your in-class participation. 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.

University policy on academic integrity will be followed: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Grades: Grade is mainly based on the in-class participation and assignments.

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. Participate in the class discussion, which includes: leading a discussion, asking questions, providing your answers if you know.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Chapter	Reading Leaders	Others
Week 1	Introduction; Touch and Pain	Ch 1, Ch 13; “The Itch” (posted article)		
Week 2	Olfaction; Taste; The first step in Vision	Ch 14; Ch 15; Ch 2; Adelson (2000), posted		
Week 3	Spatial Vision; Perceiving and Recognizing Objects	Ch 3; Ch 4;		
Week 4	Color Perception Space Perception and Binocular Vision	Ch 5; Ch6		
Week 5	Attention and Scene Perception; Motion Perception	Ch 7; Ch 8		
Week 6	Hearing	Ch 9, 10, 11		

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 is as it should be: the text and the lecture complement each other, they are not intended to be redundant. “Posted readings” refers to material to be posted on the class website on Sakai.