

TA: Gwendolyn Rehrig

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Office: Psychology 121B (down the hall from class)

Office hours: Tuesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm and by arrangement

## Syllabus

*To be updated at any time! Notice of changes will be provided via email & Sakai announcements.*

***Last updated 04/07/2014***

**Objective:** This class is intended to demonstrate perceptual phenomenon and provide a first-hand experience of perceptual research. It is expected that you will already be familiar with most of these from the companion lecture course, PSY301. In this class you will participate in experiments to collect data, learn to design experiments, visualize and analyze data, and then complete writing assignments using the same methods that psychophysicists use when writing research papers. Although I will provide a brief review of the statistical analyses we will be using ahead of time, it is expected that you already have some statistics background. You will become familiar with common measures and methods used to study perception, and you will learn to explain and interpret the work as you would if you were conducting the research from start to finish yourself.

**Communication:** The best way to contact me is by email. I check my email daily and I will respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. **I cannot guarantee a faster response**, so any issues that you need me to address should be presented with at least that much notice whenever possible.

**Resources:** All resources pertaining to the lab will be available on Sakai in .pdf format. This means the syllabus, slides, lab instructions, assignments, and any resources that I feel will be helpful for your assignments. Hard copies of the syllabus, instructions, and assignments will also be distributed in class. Slides will be posted after each class.

**Assignments:** This course is considered writing intensive by the university and therefore your grade will be entirely based on written assignments. All writing must follow APA format (see Sakai for details along with helpful resources on APA writing style). For every lab there will be a writing assignment. The assignment will be explained and discussed in class. Assignments will be due by electronic submission at 11:55pm on the due date and must be submitted in either .doc or .pdf format. Assignments will not be accepted beyond 1-week after their due date, and all late assignments will be penalized. Weekly assignments will be brief components of a research paper based on the experiment conducted in class. The final assignment will be a full laboratory report in APA format based on an original experiment carried out in class during the last weeks of the semester.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on attendance, weekly assignments (graded on a pass/fail basis), and your final project (graded using standard Rutgers letter grades). Weekly assignments that receive a failing grade can be redone and resubmitted one week after the grade is received. Pass fail grading will be broken down as follows: P+ (excellent), P (acceptable), P- (minor problems),

F (unsatisfactory, must be redone). Your final grade will be based on the letter grade you receive for your final assignment, and increased or decreased based on how many weekly assignments you received pass or fail on. A half-letter grade will be added for receiving 3 P+ grades on weekly assignments over the semester, while a half-letter grade will be subtracted for 3 P- grades. Weekly assignments receiving an F that have not been redone will result in a half-letter grade deduction. Grades and feedback for weekly assignments will be returned on Sakai under the Assignments tab.

**Schedule:** Each week you will participate in an experiment as part of the class. I will give a brief lecture about the theoretical background and motivation of the week's experiment, and explain the experimental design. Afterwards each student will analyze and interpret the results. I will go over the relevant statistical methods, both in general and as they apply to the results at hand.

<b>Lab 1: Line length perception</b>	01/30/2014
Assignment 1:	[Tables] and [Figures] due 02/05/2014
<b>Lab 2: Pitch discrimination</b>	02/06/2014
Assignment 2:	[Methods] & [Results] due 02/12/2014
<b>University Closed</b>	02/13/2014
<b>Lab 3: Center of gravity</b>	02/19/2014
Assignment 3:	[Introduction] due 02/26/2014
<b>Lab 4: Prism adaptation</b>	02/27/2014
Assignment 4:	[Methods] due 03/05/2014
<b>Lab 5: Extrapolation of motion</b>	03/06/2014
Assignment 5:	[Results] due 03/12/2014
<b>Lab 6: Attention shift</b>	03/13/2014
Assignment 6:	[Discussion] due 03/26/14
<b>Spring Break</b>	03/20/2014
<b>Lab 7: Crowding</b>	03/27/2014
Assignment 7:	[Results] due 04/02/14
<b>Lab 8: P-illusion</b>	04/03/2014
Assignment 8:	[Discussion] due 04/09/14
<b>Final project design</b>	04/10/14
Assignment 9:	[Abstract] and [Title] due 04/16/14
<b>Project experiment</b>	04/17/14
<b>Project analysis</b>	04/24/14
<b>Project presentations</b>	05/01/14
<b>Final project due</b>	[Full paper]

Assignment 10:

05/07/14

**Classroom Conduct:** Questions and discussion are encouraged! The more you participate, the better you and your classmates learn, and the better the sense I get for how well everyone grasps the material. Be on time for class. Lateness is distracting, disrespectful, and could mean missing crucial information that can hurt your grade later on. Cell phone use will not be permitted and cell phones should be turned off or at the very least set to silent. Similarly, do not use the lab computers to do anything that is not relevant to class (browsing the internet, social media, doing homework for another class, etc.).

**Attendance:** Because this course is hands on and assignments will be based on work done in class, attendance is mandatory. Absences will be excused when reasonable (illness, family emergency, religious observances, etc.) but you must contact me as soon as you know you will be missing a class and should have documentation whenever possible. Each unexcused absence will be penalized by 2% of your final grade.

**APA Resources:** [The Purdue Owl](#) is a great condensed resource for APA formatting and style basics. It is also kept up-to-date, so what the Owl says about current formatting specifications should be used over the other resource I am posting. I will be posting relevant excerpts from [The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association](#) (5th Edition) under resources. Use this for reference if you need help understanding what should go where in an APA style experimental paper, or for general tips on scientific writing.