# Sensation and Perception Lab

**Spring 2014 – 01:830:302:02**
**Busch Psychology Building, Rm 105**
**Tuesdays 3:20 PM – 6:20 PM**

**Instructor**: Elio Santos
**E-mail**: Elio.Santos@rutgers.edu
**Office Hours**: By appointment

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:

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of Sensation and 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 report.

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.

**Grading**:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and participation in the weekly labs (10%)
2. Weekly lab assignments (see Weekly Assignments section below)
3. Presentation on final project (20%)
4. An original project report to be completed during the last 3 weeks of classes (70%)

There are no tests or quizzes planned for this class.

The criteria for grading your work through the course of the semester 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

**Weekly Assignments**:

We will be working on different labs every week.   After each lab is completed (data collection and analysis), you will be assigned a write-up of the lab that is due at an announced time.   Write-ups will often consist of brief reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests, etc.), results and/or conclusions.

The weekly assignments will be graded on the pass/fail scale:

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

Scores on these weekly assignments will be used to adjust the grade given on the final project report.   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.

   $3 \times$ P+'s:  Add one-half letter grade
         P:  No points added or deducted

$3 \times$ P-'s: Deduct one-half letter grade

F: Deduct one-half letter grade if left uncorrected

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 as a "revision". The highest grade of a revision is a P (not a P+). No revisions of a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week timeframe, 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. If at any time you are worried about your performance in this lab, please inform me as soon as possible.

Students must complete all laboratory assignments and reports individually unless otherwise noted. Collaborative reports will be given an F grade (see Academic Dishonesty Policy below). In addition, your assignments will be checked using "**Turnitin**", which is a software that compares the content of your assignment to Websites, books, journal articles, and the assignments of students who have or are taking this class. You will also be required to agree to "Honor a Pledge" before submitting your assignments.

## **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). Final project is 70% of your final grade. Late final reports are usually not accepted. But if I do accept a late final report, I reserve the right to lower your final grade as much as I consider appropriate.

## **Participation and note taking:**

Participation is part of your grade. I expect all the students to ask questions and volunteer to answer the questions I ask when I lecture at the beginning of the class. All students need to take notes. Taking good notes is going to be part of your participation. There are going to be times when I decide check notes. **Take notes with pen/pencil and paper since you are not allowed to use any electronic device while I am lecturing. That includes the computers in the lab and cell phones.** Participation is 10% of your final grade.

## **Attendance Policy:**

If you miss a lab for a legitimate reason, you should email me as soon as possible (santos86@rci.rutgers.edu). You must bring/email an official excuse note (e.g., a doctor's note) so that we can make arrangements to make-up the work/lab you missed. If you need to miss a class for a planned absence in the future (e.g., a religious holiday), please contact me as soon as

possible so that we can schedule a make-up. Missed assignments that are not excused will be given a failing grade and will therefore deduct one-half letter grade from your final project.

**You must arrive on time to class.** Excessive lateness prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the labs. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will not be allowed to participate and your tardiness will be counted as an unexcused absence.

### Resources:

All course materials can be found on http://sakai.rutgers.edu after you log in. It is expected that you have read and printed out all materials before class. You will need a hard copy of lab manual to use as a reference when you are running the experiments. You do not need to buy a book for this class. Lab manuals will be posted before class.

If you can't finish analyzing your data, and you need to use SPSS, you can go to one of the computer labs on campus ( http://www.nbcs.rutgers.edu/ccf/main/locations/ ). Most of those computers should have SPSS.

### Schedule of Labs:

The following is a rough schedule of the course. I will email lab manuals before the class. Make sure to print them out. Changes and amendments may be made as the course progresses.

| January 21 | No Class – Lab classes begin on the second week of the semester |
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| January 28 | Intro to the course, Lab 1: Perception of line length (Graphs & Tables) |
| February 4 | Lab 2: Pitch discrimination (Method, Results) |
| February 11 | Lab 3: Center of gravity (Introduction) |
| February 18 | Lab 4: Prism adaptation (Method) |
| February 25 | Lab 5: Extrapolation of motion (Results) |
| March 4 | Lab 6: Attention shift (Discussion) |
| March 11 | Lab 7: P-illusion (Title Page, Abstract, Results & References) |
| March 18 | Spring Recess – No class |
| March 25 | No class |
| April 1 | Design final project |
| April 8 | Data collection for final projects |
| April 15 | Data analysis for final projects |
| April 22 | Final presentations – turn in final projects (tentative) |

| April 29 | Reserved for any adjustments made to the schedule |
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## 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 us but also 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. In this class you should be **paraphrasing and citing the source using APA format**. Please check the school guidelines for further clarification of violations.

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml

You should also take a 20 minute interactive-tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity, http://sccweb.scc-net.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/Intro.html

**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.**