Syllabus

Sensation and Perception Lab
01:830:302:04 , Spring 2015
Wednesday 3:20-6:25 @ Room 105, Busch Psychology Building

Instructor:

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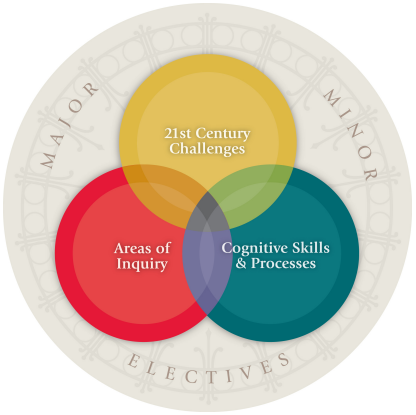
Office Hours: By appointment
Office: Room 133, Busch Psychology Building

Core Curriculum Learning Goals:

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:

- Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts & revision. (WCr)
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry. (WCd)
- Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly.
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.



General goals for this course:

1. To provide an opportunity to experience some perceptual phenomena firsthand
2. To learn how to design, conduct, analyze and write up experiment findings
3. To learn how to use software tools to analyze data

This class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class PSYCH 301 Sensation and Perception. Therefore, concurrent or past registration in PSYCH 301 is required.

Class website:

The class has a Sakai website, where the following will be uploaded:

- Announcements
- Lecture powerpoint slides (accessible after the labs)
- Syllabus
- Lab assignments
- Dropbox (for your personal use)
- Grades

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Grading:

Your final grade will be based on four aspects:

- Attendance (see Attendance Policy below) - 25%
- Weekly lab assignments (total 8 assignments)– 50%
- Final Project – 20%
- Presentation – 5%

Percentages converted to course grades

A : 90%-100%
B+ : 87%-89%
B : 80% - 86%
C+ : 77% - 79%
C : 70% - 76%
D : 60% - 69%
F : 59% and below

Weekly lab assignments and Final Project:

The criteria for grading your lab assignments and final project will be:

- Effort and class participation
- Demonstration of progress in understanding and using software tools
- Clarity of graphs and writing based on APA formatting
- Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual concepts introduced in the lab

Weekly Assignments: We will be working on these assignments during each lab. In our lab meeting, we will collect data and analyze them. Subsequently, you will be assigned a write-up of those results, which will be due at the beginning of the next lab meeting. Write-ups (usually 1-2 page) will often consist of brief reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests etc.), results, and conclusion.

Weekly assignments will be graded on a scale of 1-5 such that:

5: Excellent work (equivalent to 100%)
4: Good work with minor mistakes (equivalent to 90%)
3: Work reflecting conceptual mistakes (equivalent to 80%)
2: Work reflecting conceptual misunderstanding and incomplete sections (equivalent to 65%)
1: Fail, requires redo (equivalent to 50%)

Students who hand in their assignments on time and receive a 2 or below will be given the option of handing in one revised version within 1 week of receipt of the graded assignment. The revised report will then be graded. No revisions of a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week delay, and no subsequent revision will be accepted after the first revision. If you decide to hand in a revised version, make all effort to meet with me to discuss the material and your performance.

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 graded on the same scale as the weekly assignments.

All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed on your own. You can discuss concepts with other students, but you may not collaboratively write reports. If you hand in any collaborative reports, you will receive an F for your course grade. Also, your assignments will be checked using **Turnitin**, a software that checks originality of your assignments by comparing it to content on the Web, articles, books, and assignments of previous students of this class. If you hand in a plagiarized assignment/report, you will receive an F for your course grade. Please see Academic Dishonesty Policy below.

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Presentation:

You will be required to present for 5-7 minutes on the final project that you will be working on. Evaluation will be based on how clear you are in delivering the experiment methods and results. If the presentation is well prepared and/or if you actively participate during the presentation's Q/A, this will also serve as a chance to earn extra credit up to 5 points on your course grade.

Attendance Policy:

I will be taking attendance at the beginning of the class. *Therefore, you must arrive on time.* Excessive lateness prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the lab projects. If you are more than 30 minutes late, your attendance will be counted as an unexcused absence.

The attendance counts as 25% of your grade. At the start of the semester, everyone begins with a full 25%. Each time you make an unexcused absence, your attendance grade will be deducted by 1.5%. For example, if you are absent twice during the semester, you will get 22% for your attendance.

If you miss a class for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness, religious holiday) you must bring an official excuse note (e.g., doctor's note) to be excused. However, you are still responsible for understanding the material, and handing in your assignment. That means, you still need to do the experiment and submit the weekly assignment. There is no guarantee that I will be available outside of office hours to help you catch up with the missed class. Therefore, make all effort to be in class!

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. Please check the school guidelines for further clarification of violations at:
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Take a 20 minute interactive-tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity,
http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/intro.html

Schedule of Labs:

The following is a rough schedule of the course. Amendments may be made as the course progresses.

January 28	Perception of line length (Graphs and Tables)
February 4	Pitch discrimination (Method, Results)
February 11	Center of gravity (Introduction, Method, Results)
February 18	Prism adaptation (Method, Results)
February 25	Motion extrapolation (Introduction, Method, Results)
March 4	Reaction time of an attention shift (Method, Results, Discussion)
March 11	Crowding (Method, Results)
March 18	Spring break (no lab)
March 25	Size illusion of the letter P (Title Page, Abstract, and others)
April 1	Design final project (must be turned in before you leave)
April 8	Data collection for final project
April 15	Finish data collection, data analysis
April 22	Open class hours for consultation
April 29	Presentation
May 6	Final report due date

Lastly! Some ground rules:

All course materials can be found on *http://sakai.rutgers.edu* after you log in. It is expected that you print out those materials outside of class. The printer in the classroom is for printing out SPSS output and data-related materials ONLY.

Also, no food or drinks are allowed.

And last but not least- NO INTERNET SURFING DURING CLASS!

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.