eileen.kowler@rutgers.edu. Email is for brief questions. Lengthy issues will be discussed in person.  
Office hours: Tuesday and Friday, 11:45-12:30. Tillett 116.

Both 3rd and 4th editions are similar. Earlier editions, prior to the 3rd, are not acceptable.
Book website: http://sites.sinauer.com/wolfe4e Free and useful! Contains demos and essays.
Course Website: on Sakai. Contains selected slides presented in class and supplemental readings.

Learning Goals:  
1. Develop scientific and critical reasoning skills.  
2. Learn about theories and approaches in the field of perception.  
3. Understand the links between mind and brain. The link between mind and brain is the MAIN THEME OF THIS ENTIRE COURSE.  
4. Lectures are interactive: This means we talk to each other. Stay alert. Ask and answer questions. Contribute to discussions.

Policies  

Exams: 3 exams (see syllabus). Exams must be taken with your registered section

Missed an exam? If you miss an exam for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness) you must submit an official excuse (e.g., doctor's note). A make-up (short essay questions) will be given at the time of the final. If you do not submit an excuse note, a grade of 0 will be assigned and no make-up will be given. Once you begin work on an exam it will count. So, if you are ill, do not take the exam -- see your doctor! If you miss the final exam for a legitimate reason, a make-up will be scheduled.

Missed a class? DON'T MISS CLASS. Missing even 1 or 2 classes each unit means you missed 20% of the material! And, the material is cumulative so your understanding will suffer even when you return! You are responsible for material covered in classes that you may miss. You can certainly ask questions about the material afterward.

NO cell phone use during class. NO texting. No laptop use in class EXCEPT for note-taking.
In recent years the frequent use of laptops for activities unrelated to class has become a problem. Using your laptop in class is distracting to me and the people around you. The prohibition of laptop use except note-taking will be enforced by deductions of points from the grade. If this policy proves to be insufficient to prevent irrelevant and distracting laptop use, then I will prohibit all laptop use during class.

ACADEMIC Integrity: University policy will be strictly followed: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/  

HOW TO LEARN AND DO WELL IN THIS CLASS

- Don’t miss class.
- Ask ask ask. If you have a question, I can assure you someone else does. Ask in class. Don’t wait.
- Listen, think, ask. Aim for understanding.
- Take notes wisely. Don’t let note-taking get in the way of listening, thinking, and understanding.
- Scientists (and, Psychology is a science) ask questions, make observations and draw conclusions. Keep these three domains in mind when you learn about the field of sensation and perception.
- Be prepared! Don’t wait for the last minute before exams. Do the reading on time. Work on the exercises in the text website: http://sites.sinauer.com/wolfe4e. Re-read your notes BEFORE each class.
WRITE descriptions (sentences, not phrases) of the concepts listed in the posted KEY TERMS lists for each unit. And, ask questions. Ask often, ask early. Do these things and you will be well prepared!

- In Sensation and Perception important concepts are summarized in pictures and graphs. When you read the text, READ the GRAPHS too! Read the caption and axes labels. Think about what’s plotted in the graph. If you understand the graphs, you’ll understand the material. DON’T skip the graphs.
- And, don’t miss class. Stay alert. Participate. Stay engaged.

Syllabus

The required reading overlaps in part with the 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. The text and the lecture complement each other, they are not intended to be redundant. “Posted readings” below refers to material posted on the class Sakai site.

Unit 1
Sept 5  Introduction to major themes  Ch 1  
Sept 8  Mental life and neural events I  Book website, Essay 1.1: https://wolfe4e.sinauer.com/essay01.01.html  
Sept 12  Mental life and neural events II  J. Mueller on the Specific Energies of Nerves (on class sakai site)  
Sept 15  Mueller’s Doctrine  The Itch (posted article on class sakai site)  
Sept 19  Fechner and psychophysics  Review the section on Signal detection in ch 1  
Sept 22  Touch and pain  Ch 13 (up to section Haptic Perception)  
Sept 26  Visual detection  Ch 2 (all except section “communicating to the brain via ganglion cells”)  
Oct 3  Comparing across the senses  
Oct 6  Exam 1, 30% of grade. covers lecture and reading in Unit 1  

Unit 2  
Oct 10  Color I  Ch 5  
Oct 13  Color II  Ch 5  
Oct 17  Mach Bands; intro to receptive fields  Ch 2, “communicating to the brain via Ganglion cells”  
Oct 20  Spatial vision I  Ch 3 (up to “Development”)  
Oct 24  Spatial vision II  Ch 3 (up to “Development”)  
Oct 27  Brightness, lightness  Adelson (2000), posted  
Oct 31  Mid-level vision  Ch 4  
Nov 3  Mid-level vision  Ch 4  
Nov 7  Perceiving objects and surfaces  Ch 4  
Nov 10  Exam 2. 30% of grade. Covers lecture and reading in unit 2  

Unit 3  
Nov 14  Perceptual development  Ch 3, “Development”  
Nov 17  Perception of depth and stereo  Ch 6  
Nov 22 (Wednesday!)  Perception of location  Ch 8  
Nov 24  Perception of motion  Ch 8  
Dec 1  Attention  Ch 7  
Dec 5  Scene perception  Ch 7  
Dec 8  Hearing  Ch 9  
Dec 12  Speech perception  Ch11 (“speech”)  

Final Exam: 40% of grade. NOTE: A portion of the exam will cover material in units 1 and 2. SEE NOTE BELOW FOR DATE!

Final exam must be taken with the section in which you are registered:  
The UNIVERSITY DETERMINES THE DATE OF THE FINAL. SEE:  
ACCORDING TO THIS POSTED SCHEDULE THE EXAMS DATES ARE:  
301:01 (TF1 class): Tuesday Dec 19, 8-11 am.  
301:02 (TF2): Fri Dec 22, 8-11 am.  
EXAMS ARE IN TILLETT 116

Instructor bio: Eileen Kowler is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology, specializing in the areas of perception, cognition, attention and eye movements. Her research has been carried in collaboration with a large number of students, graduate and undergraduate.