

## **Welcome to Psychology 301:01, Sensation and Perception: Syllabus and General Information. Fall 2021**

Last update: August 17, 2021

canvas site: <https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/135300>

I am Professor Eileen Kowler ([eileen.kowler@rutgers.edu](mailto:eileen.kowler@rutgers.edu)). My area of specialty is Sensation and Perception, as well as Cognition. I study human eye movements. You can find some brief biographical information here <https://ruccs.rutgers.edu/kowler>

This is an HYBRID course: Part Asynchronous-Remote (AR) course and part Synchronous. **The Synchronous meeting is Tuesday 11 AM – 12:20 PM. Office hours will be announced later.**

The course is using Canvas. There is no required text but there will be required reading. All materials you need will be either available on Canvas or available from web or library sites that will be posted.

The purpose of this syllabus is to discuss some aspects of the goals, format, content, activities and requirements of the course.

Keeping up is critical. This is not a course that can be completed in a short time with a burst of energy and effort. Activities will be spread equally across the entire semester and must be completed on time. The course is also cumulative. Things you learn about and we talk about early will continue to be relevant as we proceed.

### **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 functional link between mind and brain is the MAIN THEME OF THIS ENTIRE COURSE.

A note about “mind and brain”. This is not a course in brain science. No prior knowledge of neurons or brains is required or needed. Nor are we going to include technical aspects of neuronal function. Even if you do have such prior knowledge, it won’t necessarily address the major theme of the functional link between mind and brain. I welcome each of you to approach the field of sensation and perception with fresh eyes and ears.

### **Course structure**

There are three main things to do each week.

1. Read the posted materials (slide presentations; videos; readings). Note: There is no required text.

2. Complete the weekly assignments. Assignment types will vary. Assignments must be uploaded on time. All assignments will be “open book”. You must do your own work unless the assignment specifically asks for teamwork.
3. Participate in the weekly zoom.

Three of the weeks during the semester, week 5, week 10, and “week 15” (finals week) will have Assignments but not new material. These Assignment-only weeks allow us to take stock of the entire previous unit or units so we can work on overriding themes and links.

## **Technical requirements**

You should be able to manage with a computer with an internet connection, word-processing software, and the ability to view posted videos. You should know how to use Canvas. We will be using Zoom for video conferences through Canvas.

Guide to canvas: <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/students/getting-started-in-canvas-students/>

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students [deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu) for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

If you are anticipating or experiencing technical difficulties, please email me at [eileen.kowler@rutgers.edu](mailto:eileen.kowler@rutgers.edu)

## **Syllabus**

### **Unit 1: What is the science of sensation and perception and how do we study it?**

<b>Week number</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required zoom meeting.. Read the ppt and any assigned readings (see Canvas site) prior to the zoom.</b>	<b>Assignment due by noon on:</b>
0	Academic integrity	No zoom, but there are readings and an assignment. See canvas site.	September 6, noon
1	Introduction & Major Themes	September 7, 11 AM	September 13. noon
2	Historical background: Questions developed by philosophers (17th-19th centuries). Foundational discoveries about neural conduction (17th-19th centuries).	September 14, 11 AM	September 20, noon

3	Mueller's Doctrine of Specific Nerve Energies (mind and brain!) Gustav Fechner and the creation of the science of psychophysics Examples from the perception of touch and pain.	September 21, 11 AM	September 27, noon
4	Learning about vision through a classical problem: The absolute threshold for seeing	September 28, 11 AM	October 4, noon
5	Review and synthesis of unit 1 through assignments and discussions.	October 5, 11 AM	October 11, noon

### Unit 2: The stages of visual processing

<b>Week number</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required zoom meeting.. Read the ppt and any assigned readings (see Canvas site) prior to the zoom.</b>	<b>Assignment due by noon on:</b>
6	Perception of color	October 12, 11 AM	October 18, noon
7	Perception of contrast	October 19, 11 AM	October 25, noon
8	Perception of space	October 26, 11 AM	November 1, noon
9	Mid-level vision through the perception of objects	November 2, 11 AM	November 8, noon
10	Review and synthesis of unit 2 through assignments and discussion	November 9, 11 AM	November 15, noon

### Unit 3: More about vision. Hearing and speech

<b>Week number</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required zoom meeting.. Read the ppt and any assigned readings (see Canvas site) prior to the zoom.</b>	<b>Assignment due by noon on:</b>
11	Perceptual development; perception of depth and stereopsis	November 16, 11 AM	November 22, noon
12	Location and motion	November 23, 11 AM	November 29, noon
13	Attention and scenes	November 30, 11 AM	December 6, noon
14	Hearing and speech	December 7, 11 AM	December 13, noon
15	Review and synthesis of units 1-3 through assignments and discussion	n/a	TBA

Course Grades:

1. 75% of course grade based on average of weekly Assignments
2. 25% of course grade based on participation at the weekly required zoom session

Weekly Assignments will be graded as follows:

- A (100 points): Showed outstanding understanding of all basic concepts and often included either novel ideas or useful linkages across topics or both.
- B+ (90 points): Showed very good understanding of all basic concepts and often included either novel ideas or useful linkages across topics or both.
- B (80 points): Showed good understanding of most of the basic concepts, or excellent understanding of some but weaker understanding of others.
- C+ (70 points): Showed satisfactory understanding of most basic concepts. Understanding of some concepts was weak.
- C (60 points): Showed satisfactory understanding of only some basic concepts. Understanding of several concepts was weak.
- D (50 points): Showed satisfactory understanding of very few concepts.
- F (zero): Showed no understanding of basic concepts, no novel ideas or useful linkages.

Penalty for late assignments: **10 point deduction** for every day (24 hour period) that the assignment is handed in late. For example: if an assignment is due at noon on October 4, a 10-point deduction will be taken for assignments handed in between 12:01 pm October 4 and noon October 5. An additional 10 point deductions will be taken for each successive 24 hour period. Adherence to this strict schedule is critical so that I can provide timely feedback on assignments to those that have handed them in on time. No exceptions. The best way to avoid deductions is to start early and plan to hand in your assignments before the deadline. You will have ample time each week to complete the assignments so don't put things off.

**Academic Integrity**

**Our goal in this course is learning.** We cannot achieve this goal, and I cannot treat all equally and fairly, without strict adherence to the principles of academic integrity.

Violations of academic integrity are taken very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work
- Failure to cite sources correctly

- Fabrication
- Using another person's ideas or words without attribution—re-using a previous assignment
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Sabotaging another student's work in doubt, please consult the instructor

<http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Resources for Students: <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home/for-students/>

Honor pledge:

All students will need to sign the Rutgers Honor Pledge **in the Week 1 assignment**

*On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment*

## **Student-Wellness Services:**

### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

**(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/**

**<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>**

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

**Crisis Intervention** : <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/crisis-intervention/>

**Report a Concern:** <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

**(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)**

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

### **Disability Services**

**(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations.. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.