

Sensation and Perception Lab

01:830:302: Fall 2011

Busch Psychology Building, Rm 105

Learning Goals for the course:

This course has been developed in order to provide students perceptual phenomena first hand. In addition, upon successful completion of this course students will

- be able to design and carry out simple perceptual experiments
- be able to carry out basic statistical manipulation to analyze and plot data using appropriate software tools
- be able to interpret statistical analyses
- produce a professional-style research report

SAS Core Goals s2, t, u, and v are fulfilled by this course. Upon successful completion, student will be able to:

- Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers and instructors through successive drafts and revision.
- Communicate effectively in the mode of an APA-style research paper.
- 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.

Please Note: 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 three things:

1. Attendance (see Attendance Policy below)
2. Weekly lab assignments
3. An original project report and presentation completed during the last several class meetings

Every assignment will count towards your grade. There are no tests or quizzes planned. *Grades for this course will not be curved or scaled.*

The criteria for grading your work will be:

- Effort and class participation
- Demonstration of proficiency in using software tools
- Clarity of graphs
- Clarity of writing
- Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual concepts introduced in the labs

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).

Weekly Assignments:

We will be working on labs at each class meeting. After each lab is completed (data collection and analysis), you will be assigned a write-up of the lab that is due at the beginning of the next class period. Write-ups will often consist of brief (1-2 page) reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests, etc.), results and conclusions.

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. No revisions of a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week delay, 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. You may not revise a P grade to receive a P+.

Since the P- does not afford you the opportunity to improve your work, I am more likely to give out F's. Do not worry about receiving an F. It just means you have something small or large that needs to be fixed and by giving you an F I am giving you the opportunity to fix it.

The weekly assignments will be graded on the "P" scale:

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

Scores on these weekly assignments will be used to adjust the grade given on the final project. 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 P+'s: Add one-half letter grade
- P: No points added or deducted
- 3 P-'s: Deduct one-half letter grade
- F: Deduct one-half letter grade if left uncorrected

All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by the individual student. Collaborative reports will be given an F grade. Please see Academic Dishonesty Policy below.

Attendance Policy:

A missed class is a missed class. No absences will be excused for any reason and therefore students will be responsible for all work in the course.

You must arrive on time to class. Excessive lateness prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the lab projects. If you are more than 15 minutes late you will not be allowed to enter and participate that day and you will be counted as absent.

Schedule of Labs:

The following is a rough schedule of the course. Changes and amendments may be made as the course progresses.

September	Introduction to the course, Lab 1: Perception of line length (Graphs & Tables)
September	Lab 2: Pitch discrimination (Method, Results)
September	Lab 3: Center of gravity (Introduction)
October	Lab 4: Prism Adaptation (Method)
October	Lab 5: Extrapolation of Motion (Results)
October	Lab 6: Attention Shift (Discussion)
October	Lab 7: Crowding (Results)
November	Lab 8: P-illusion (Title Page, Abstract, and Discussion)
November	Lab 9: Design final project, abstract, title
November	Data collection for final projects
November	Data analysis for final projects
November	Turn in final projects and presentation
December	Reserved for class changes/amendments
December	NO LAB – Reading Day, see http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml
Final Exam	NO LAB

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Absolutely no dishonesty will be tolerated. Reading outside sources is a very good thing, so by all means quote them and comment on them in your work, but be completely honest about where your information is coming from. If you present something as someone else's idea and then comment on it, you will be rewarded. If you present other peoples' ideas as your own, you will be severely punished (see Rutgers Academic Dishonesty Policy). Cite anything and everything. If there is any doubt about whether or not to cite something, the answer is that it should be cited. If you fail to give credit to the original source, it will be impossible to convince anyone that this was an accident after you turn it in. Do it before you turn in your work!

All course materials can be found on <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> after you log in. It is expected that you print out ALL materials before 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.