

PS 3310: Sensation and Perception

MWF 1:50-2:45 (23500) & 3-3:55 (30028)
Hitchcock Hall 0031
3 Units

Description

The study of sensation & perception examines how observers perceive their environment through sensory information. The class covers a wide range of topics such as how the eye is not a camera, why people need glasses, how 3d movies work, why 3d movies are silly, the mysteries of face blindness, the dangers of texting and driving, what hiding behind your eardrum, why drinking too much causes 'the spins', why headphones are making you deaf, the human nose vs dog nose, why grass smells good but tastes bad but spicy food is delicious.

Disclaimer

Everything about this syllabus is subject to change.

Book

I recommend buying a copy. Whether or not the textbook is needed really depends on the student. The exams only cover my lectures and I post all of my slides on Carmen. If you miss class you may not be able to understand the content of the slides without the book. If you are really interested in the topic I recommend the book. It is well written and informative, but may not be needed if you attend and take good notes. There will be two copies on hold on the main library. The 2nd edition is also an option with about 90% overlap with the 3rd. The page numbers are different and some material is out of date. Purchase it at your own risk. The text website is free and very useful.

Jeremy M. Wolfe. (2012). Sensation & Perception, 3rd edition. (Cover is mostly dark red)
<http://sites.sinauer.com/wolfe4e/index.html>

Attendance

Students are strongly encouraged to attend lectures, but this is not a requirement and attendance is not taken. Lecture slides will be posted on Carmen. These slides provide an outline of the lecture and contain some — but not all — key terms and major learning points. Having these handouts is *not* a substitute for attending class. Not all lecture material will be on them.

You are responsible for all information covered in class. If you miss a lecture it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to find out what you missed. I will not hand out my personal lecture notes from class to be fair to other students. However, you can come see me for help with material you have missed after you have retrieved the lecture notes from one of your classmates.

Office Hours

TuTh: 2-4 or by appointment in Lazenby 300A.

My office can be tricky to find. It is on the weird 3rd floor of Lazenby Hall. *Not* the weird 2nd floor mezzanine. The main elevator does not go to the 3rd floor. I suggest using the stairs in the north (or south) end of the building. My office is behind several doors on the north end. If you require an elevator, there is a secret elevator near the 2nd floor lobby that only goes to the mezzanine and 3rd floor. Tell a friend before using it so we know where to start looking when it gets stuck and you go missing. If you get lost there is a helpful leprechaun in Lazenby 305. If he isn't there follow the fire exit signs to escape.

Exams

90% of final grade. Best 5 grades out of 6 exams.

There will be six exams (five in-class and a cumulative during finals week). All are multiple-choice exams, each containing roughly 50 questions. Exams will be closed book and must be taken in class. If you miss an exam, it will be graded as 0 points. The only valid excuse is a written note from a doctor explaining that you could not be in class. Exams are based on material covered in class. Exams 1-5 are non-cumulative. The Final Exam is cumulative. It will contain some material that requires understanding of the entire course material. Your worst exam grade will be dropped. This procedure does not make a difference for students with consistent performance, but it will help students who do poorly on or miss one of the exams. I recommend trusting the Registrar's Final Exam Schedule over any other source, even an instructor or syllabus.

<http://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/finals/finals.asp>

Weekly Quizzes

10% of final grade. Best 10 grades out of 12 quizzes

A brief quiz about the class material will be posted to Carmen each week. You may use any materials to answer the questions. Quizzes will be posted by midnight Monday with deadline at 2pm on Wednesday. Most questions will be multiple-choice and look very similar to exam questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage attendance and reading of the text while also preparing you for the exams. Make-up quizzes will not be offered. Instead only the 10 highest quiz grades out of 12 will count towards the final grade. This allows you to miss one or two without penalty.

Extra Credit

Students can earn up to a maximum of one third of a letter grade (C- to C, A- to A, etc) with an extra credit assignment that involves writing an essay. The details of this assignment will be posted on Carmen. This is the only extra credit opportunity. It will be due sometime during the last week of class. Any extra credit passed in after the due date will not be accepted.

Final Course Grades

Final course grades will be based on the percentage of points earned out of the total available points. The following OSU standard scale will be used to assign final grades:

A	93% +	C	73% - 76.9%
A-	90% - 92.9%	C-	70% - 72.9%
B+	87% - 89.9%	D+	67% - 69.9%
B	83% - 86.9%	D	60% - 66.9%
B-	80% - 82.9%	E	Below 60%
C+	77% - 79.9%		

Classroom Rules

Please silence all mobile phones, and other devices that make noise and do not answer these during lecture. If you have an emergency, please leave the room to handle it. Please try to be on time. If you cannot avoid being late (or know that you have to leave class early), please sit in the back to avoid disturbing the rest of the class during lecture. Do not read mobile devices or material that is not course-related during class. If believe you are behaving in a disrespectful way, I reserve the right to ask you to leave. This syllabus and all rules are subject to change at any point during the quarter.

Disputing Grades

Occasionally, a student may believe that a grade is flawed. If you would like to dispute a grade, I ask that you submit a written request for a grade change. You may e-mail such requests to me. Any written requests for grade changes should include detailed information consisting of how you believe the grading was in error and any supporting information.

Feel free to see me

If at any point you are experiencing difficulty in this course, please see me. You can visit during office hours or contact me to schedule an appointment. If you realize you may be struggling in the class, I strongly encourage you to come see me as soon as possible. The sooner you come talk to me, the more possibilities you will have to improve your grade.

Student feedback about the course

I am always interested in finding ways to improve my courses. I will ask you for anonymous feedback about the course and my teaching during the quarter. I hope you will take this opportunity to provide me with constructive feedback. Alternatively, you can come visit me during office hours or send me an email if you have particular concerns about the course.

Mental Health Resources

If you feel that you need to seek help for yourself or someone you care about, the following resources are available to you:

- The Ohio State University Counseling and Consultation Services: 614.292.5766
- The Ohio State University Psychological Services Center: 614.292.2059
- The Ohio State University Hospital Emergency Room: 614.293.8333
- Suicide Hotlines: 1.800.SUICIDE, 1.800.273.TALK

Students with disabilities

This syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request. In addition, if you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me immediately. Students with special needs should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 292-3307 for certification if they have not already done so. Upon such certification, the ODS and I will make every effort to accommodate special needs.

Academic Misconduct

All students at the Ohio State University are bound by the Code of Student Conduct (see <http://oaa.ohio-state.edu/coam/code.html>). Violations of the code in this class will be dealt with according to the procedures detailed in that code. Specifically, any alleged cases of misconduct will be referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Course Schedule		Chapter
Jan 12 Jan 14 Jan 16	Introduction & Syllabus Review Philosophy & History of Perception Neurons	Allegory of the Cave PDF One
Jan 19 Jan 21 Jan 23	MLK – No Class Neurons Waves	One One
Jan 26 Jan 28 Jan 30	The Eye The Eye – Eric out. Substitute. The Eye – Eric out. Substitute.	Two Two Two
Feb 2 Feb 4 Feb 6	Exam 1 Spatial Vision Spatial Vision	1 & 2 Three Three
Feb 9 Feb 11 Feb 13	Spatial Vision Color Color	Three Five Five
Feb 16 Feb 18 Feb 20	Color Middle Vision Exam 2	Five 4a pages 85-106 3, 4a, & 5
Feb 23 Feb 25 Feb 27	3D Vision 3D Vision 3D Vision	Six Six Six
March 2 March 4 March 6	Object Recognition Selective Attention Attention Disorders	4b pages 106-116 Seven Seven
March 9 March 11 March 13	Scene Perception Exam 3 The Left Ear	Seven 4b, 6, & 7 Nine
March 16 March 18 March 20	Spring Break - No Class Spring Break - No Class Spring Break - No Class	
March 23 March 25 March 27	The Right Ear Auditory Psychophysics Auditory Psychophysics	Nine Ten Ten
March 30 April 1 April 3	Sound Localization Spatial Orientation Spatial Orientation	Ten Twelve Twelve
April 6 April 8 April 10	Exam 4 Touch Touch	9, 10, & 12 Thirteen Thirteen

Course Schedule		Chapter
April 13 April 15 April 17	Touch Olfaction Olfaction	Thirteen Fourteen Fourteen
April 20 April 22 April 24	Taste Taste Exam 5	Fifteen Fifteen 13, 14, & 15
April 27	Review	
May 1 (Friday)	Exam 6 Section 2 (3PM): 4-5:45PM	All Covered Material
May 5 (Tuesday)	Exam 6 Section 1 (1:50PM): 4-5:45PM	All Covered Material

Disclaimer: The schedule is subject to change.

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