

PSYC 4120: SENSATION AND PERCEPTION **PSYCHOLOGY**

Spring 2011

Psychology Building, Room 243
Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 – 4:45pm

INSTRUCTOR

Emily R. Bovier, M.S.
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Office: 511, Psychology Building
Office Hours: By appointment

REQUIRED TEXT

Foley, H.J., & Matlin, M.W. (2010). *Sensation and Perception*, 5th ed. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From UGA Bulletin: How organisms sense and perceive the environment. Topics discussed are anatomy and physiology of the sensory systems, types of stimuli affecting sensory systems, and current knowledge and theories of our perceptual abilities.

Additional Information: This course will focus on how the anatomy and physiology of each sensory system allows organisms to understand their environment. Information regarding the interplay between sensory systems and consequences of dysfunction/sensory deficits will also be covered. Throughout the semester, we will explore several interesting and exciting sensory phenomena, such as:

- Visual Illusions:
———*What is the moon illusion?*
- Music Perception:
———*Why do we hear some songs as “angry” or “sad”?*
- Phantom Limbs:
———*How is it that amputees still feel their lost limbs?*
- Pain and Pleasure:
———*What in the world is so pleasurable about getting a tattoo?*
- Taste & Smell Preference:
———*How does sensory perception of food affect our appetite?*
- Sensory Disorders & Deficits:
———*Is it possible to “hear” color?*

You will also have an opportunity to choose your own topics of interest to focus on in class.

PREREQUISITES

PSYC 1101
PSYC 2990 or PSYC 3990

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

Response Papers (20% of total grade): Please see additional handout regarding the specifics of Response Papers. You will complete a total of three response papers throughout the semester. The goal of this activity is to provide you an opportunity to develop writing skills and explore interesting psychological phenomena.

Readiness Assessment and Active Learning Activities (20% of total grade): Your readiness to participate in class will be assessed through a variety of [activities/techniques](#) (e.g., minute papers). You will also participate in active learning activities throughout the semester. [Participation in these activities will count as your attendance grade. A total of 18 in-class activities will be completed throughout the course of the semester. There is a strict no make-up policy. You will be allowed to miss 3 activities without penalty to your grade. All class materials will be accessible via eLC, however no make-up assessments will be made for attendance.](#) The course material lends itself well to hands-on experience, in addition to lecture. The goal of the activities is to encourage learning on a deeper level. They will also provide an opportunity for you to interact with peers, receive peer feedback, and brainstorm theories related to course material and your own scientific interests.

Exams (60% of total grade): A total of four exams will be administered over the course of the semester. The main purpose of the exams is to evaluate your comprehension of foundational course material, primarily through short-answer questions. Although the exams are not cumulative, information that you learn in one unit is likely to be relevant and valuable to your understanding of material in a subsequent unit. [There is a strict no-make up policy for exams. If you do miss an exam, medical or other documentation of the emergency is required and your missing grade will be replaced with the average of the other three exams.](#)

GRADES

Note: a grade of C or better (73% or higher) is required to earn credit as a PSYC major.

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A+	100%	C	73%-76%
A	93%-99%	C-	70%-72%
A-	90%-92%	D+	67%-69%
B+	87%-89%	D	63%-66%
B	83%-86%	D-	60%-62%
B-	80%-82%	F	below 60%
C+	77%-79%		

ACADEMIC HONESTY

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~~All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.~~

~~As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.~~

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DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability that requires further attention, please see the instructor or teaching assistant as soon as possible, so that appropriate accommodations can be made. For further assistance, please contact Disability Services.

TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Please check eLC for updates!

Week	Dates	Activity (in-class) & Associated Readings (before class)
1	1/11 & 1/13	Introductions & Syllabus; Learning Goals; Psychophysics Readings: Chapter 1-2
2	1/18 & 1/20	Structure/Function of Eye; Eye Dissection Readings: Chapter 3, p. 44-63; Chapter 4, p.91-97
3	1/25 & 1/27	Retina to the Cortex; Clinical Case Study Discussion Readings: Chapter 3, p.63-81; Supplemental Reading #1
4	2/1 & 2/3	Review Session; Active Learning Activity EXAM 1 and RESPONSE PAPER 1 due Thursday, 2/3
5	2/8 & 2/10	Visual Perception Readings: Chapter 5-6
6	2/15 & 2/17	Color Vision; Active Learning Activity Readings: Chapter 7
7	2/22 & 2/24	Clinical Case Study Discussion; Motion Perception Readings: Supplemental Reading #2, Chapter 8

8	3/1 & 3/3	Review Session; Active Learning Activity EXAM 2 and RESPONSE PAPER 2 due Thursday, 3/3
9	3/8 & 3/10	Auditory System; Vestibular System Readings: Chapter 9; Chapter 12, p. 348-351
10	3/15 & 3/17	SPRING BREAK
11	3/22 & 3/24	Auditory Perception; Music and Speech; Active Learning Activity Readings: Chapter 10-11
12	3/29 & 3/31	Somatosensory System; Clinical Case Study Discussion Readings: Supplemental Reading #3, Chapter 12
13	4/5 & 4/7	Review Session; Active Learning Activity EXAM 3 and RESPONSE PAPER 3 due Thursday, 4/7
14	4/12 & 4/14	Chemical Senses: Taste and Smell; Active Learning Activity Readings: Chapter 13
15	4/19 & 4/21	Sensory Disorders; Synesthesia; Clinical Case Study Discussion Supplemental Readings #4 and #5
16	4/26 & 4/28	Myths in Sensory Psychology RR Review Session; Active Learning Activity EXAM 4 on Thursday, 4/28
<u>FINAL EXAM</u>		Exam 4 will be on Tuesday, May 10th at 3:30pm

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IMPORTANT DATES!

Drop Deadline: January 13

Exam 1: February 3

Paper 1: February 3

Exam 2: March 3

Paper 2: March 3

Withdrawal Deadline: March 24

Exam 3: April 7
Paper 3: April 7
~~Exam 4: April 28~~
Last Day of Class: April 28
Exam 4: Finals Week, May 10
Grades Due: May 16