Undergraduate Course Syllabus

PSY 307: Sensation and Perception
Center: Online

Course Prerequisites
PSY 108

Course Description
This course will be an exploration of how we come to know the world through our visual experiences and how those experiences are shaped by prior knowledge, context, and ideas. As such we will cover neurobiological aspects of sensation pertaining to the eye and the brain, and we will cover aspects of higher-order perceptual phenomena, such as object-perception, color, motion, illusions, and representation and art. Students should gain an appreciation for and conversance in the empirical and philosophical complexity of visual experience.

Course Outcomes
- Define and explain fundamental psychological terms and concepts in the main areas of sensation and perception (e.g., optics, color perception, object recognition, audition, and olfaction)
- Demonstrate the ability to apply the principles and concepts of sensation and perception, including the relationships between eye-and-brain and sight-and-mind
- Demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills through detection of correct and faulty applications of sensation and perception principles and theory

Required Materials
Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the SNHU Online Bookstore rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Sensation and Perception
Yantis, Steven
Worth Publishers, Inc.
2nd Edition
2017
ISBN: 978-1-4641-1170-9

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to "embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse

identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life."

This may or will be reflected in SNHU's curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment's due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	7	25	175
1-2 Discussion	1	50	50
Short Papers	2	50	100
Midterm Exam	1	150	150
Final Exam	1	150	150
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	50	50
Milestone Two	1	75	75
Milestone Three	1	75	75
Milestone Four	1	175	175
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2
C-	70–72	1.67
D+	67–69	1.33
D	60–66	1
F	0–59	0
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
IP	In Progress (past end of term)	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction to Sensation, Perception, and Psychophysical Methodology *Sensation and Perception*, Chapter 1 1-1 Discussion: Sensation and Perception 1-2 Discussion: Classical Psychophysical Methods 1-3 Final Project Review

Module	Topics and Assignments
2	The Eye and Central Visual Pathways *Sensation and Perception*, Chapters 2 and 3 2-1 Discussion: Final Project Milestone One: Topic 2-2 Web Activity: Anatomy of the Eye (ungraded) 2-3 Web Activity: Anatomy of the Retina (ungraded) 2-4 Short Paper: Acuity vs. Sensitivity
3	Perceptual Organization and Object Recognition *Sensation and Perception*, Chapter 4 3-1 Discussion: Object Recognition and Pattern Perception 3-2 Web Activity: Gestalt Grouping Principles (ungraded) 3-3 Final Project Milestone Two: Annotated Bibliography
4	Color and Depth Perception *Sensation and Perception*, Chapters 5 and 6 4-1 Discussion: Color Vision 4-2 Web Activity: Color Mixing (ungraded) 4-3 Web Activity: Color Vision Deficiency (ungraded) 4-4 Web Activity: Binocular Disparity (ungraded) 4-5 Web Activity: Illusions of Depth, Size, and Shape (ungraded) 4-6 Midterm Exam
5	The Ear and Auditory System *Sensation and Perception*, Chapter 10 5-1 Discussion: Ear Damage 5-2 Web Activity: Ear Anatomy (ungraded) 5-3 Web Activity: Audibility Function (ungraded) 5-4 Final Project Milestone Three: Methods and Data Analysis Draft
6	Hearing and Listening *Sensation and Perception*, Chapter 11 6-1 Discussion: Sound Localization 6-2 Short Paper: Auditory Localization
7	The Chemical Senses *Sensation and Perception*, Chapters 14 and 15 7-1 Discussion: The Chemical Senses 7-2 Web Activity: Olfactory Anatomy (ungraded) 7-3 Web Activity: Sensory Memory Cues (ungraded) 7-4 Web Activity: Gustatory Anatomy (ungraded) 7-5 Final Project Milestone Four: Research Proposal
8	Touch *Sensation and Perception*, Chapter 13 8-1 Discussion: Cognitive Factors and Pain 8-2 Web Activity: Somatosensory Receptors (ungraded) 8-3 Web Activity: The Sensory Homunculus (ungraded) 8-4 Web Activity: Two-Point Touch Thresholds (ungraded) 8-5 Final Exam

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is **automatically dropped** from the course for non-participation. Review the full attendance policy.

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the full late assignment policy.

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the student handbook.

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAA.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the Online Accessibility Center (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the Disability and Accessibility Services website.

Academic Integrity Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the full academic integrity policy.

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the full copyright policy.

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the full withdrawal policy.

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the policy page.