

Perception

Psychology 438/538

Fall 2004 UH 12:00-1:20

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Teaching Asst: Lindy Beane, 206B Huestis, 346-4903.

Office hours: TBA.

Text: Sensation and Perception, 6th Ed. Goldstein.

Topics and readings:

9/28 Introduction to perception: scope of the course. Pp. 1-11.

9/30 Approaches and methods in the study of perception. Pp. 11-30.

10/5 Vision: Neural processing in the peripheral visual system. Pp. 35-73.

10/7 Vision: Neural processing in the central visual system. Pp. 77-87, 95-104.

10/12 Vision: Motion perception. Pp. 117-118. **Assignment I due.**

10/14 Vision: Motion perception. Pp. 269-289.

10/19 Midterm Exam I

10/21 Vision: Object perception: Pp. 109-117, 118-130. **Paper outline due.**

10/26 Vision: Object perception, cont. Chap. 5.

10/28 Vision: Color vision. Pp. 185-205.

10/30 Vision: Depth perception. Pp. 225-247.

11/2 Vision: Visual attention. Pp. 130-136.

11/4 Audition: Neural processing. Pp. 331-367.

11/9 Audition: Perceptual phenomena. Pp. 375-390. **Assignment II due.**

11/11 Midterm Exam II

11/16 Somatosensation: Neural processing of tactile information. Pp. 435-455.

11/18 Somatosensation and plasticity. Pp. 456-460.

11/23 Olfaction. Pp. 473-487. **Term Paper due.**

11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday. No class.

11/30 Gustation. Pp. 487-501. **Assignment III due.**

12/2 Review for final.

12/9 Final exam, 8:00 am.

Notes:

Your grade in class will be based on exam scores, scores on homework assignments, and the term paper. All exams count toward the final grade.

There will be three **homework assignments** during the term and each will be due the class meeting prior to each midterm (exception, first assignment, which will be due on Oct 12) and the final exam. I will grade and return the first assignment to you on Oct 14 to provide you with feedback on your performance and guidance on the midterm. The assignments consist of developing questions and answers of two types. The first type is a short identification question in which you identify a term or concept (e.g., *temporal summation*) and then define it fully in a cogent paragraph. The second type of question is an essay question, in which you address broader issues that integrate over several areas

(e.g., *compare the strategies used by the visual and auditory systems for the coding of the major stimulus attributes*), and then answer the question in about one page. **Each assignment consists of three (3) short identification questions and answers and one (1) essay question and answer.** The assignments will be graded for accuracy and each assignment is worth 20 pts. Some of the better questions will actually appear on the midterm tests.

Exams are subjective (midterms worth about 65 pts, final about 100 pts) and will be graded on a curve. The exams will cover the materials immediately preceding them and will not be cumulative. The format of the exam will be identical to that of the assignments. That is, there will be 6 short identification questions and you will choose 3 to identify. There will be two long essay questions and you will choose one to answer as completely as possible. HINT: the best exam and assignment scores will be earned by those that integrate lecture and book information into their answers. Lindy Beane, a graduate student in Psychology, will grade the exams based on a key I will provide.

A **term paper** will be due on November 23 (day before Thanksgiving). This deadline was chosen so that your preparation for the final and the last assignment would not be due at about the same time. The paper topic will be chosen from any material relevant to the course. I suggest that you use the text as a starting point for choosing the topic. The book will also have references that can serve as a springboard for your research. I want to see an outline of what you have planned before you begin your writing (due 10/21/04). Standard term paper format (Intro, statement of problem, critical appraisal of data, conclusions, and bibliography) should be used for the final draft, including reference citations within the text (e.g., Marrocco et al, 1994) and the full citation within a bibliography at the end of the paper. There is no fixed number of articles you should use. The paper should be 5 pages long, (double-spaced) in length, NOT including a title page or the bibliography.

Please note that the final exam is scheduled for the 9th of December. No exams will be given prior to that date, so please make your winter travel plans with that date in mind. If missing the final is unavoidable, you must inform me as soon as you can. I will give you an incomplete for the course, which you can make up by taking the final at the beginning of winter term.