

Perception: Psychology 438/538
Spring 2005
University of Oregon

Location: 10:00 -11:20 Tu. & Th.
142 Straub Hall
Prerequisites: PSY 302, 303

Instructors: Professor Scott H. Frey, Ph.D.
307 Straub Hall
Office Hours: Tues., 2:30-3:30., Wed. 9–10:00

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Stephan Dickert
309 Straub Hall
Office Hours: Mon., 2-3:00 & Tues., 12-1:00

Mission. This course will introduce you to the scientific investigation of sensory and perceptual processes including vision, hearing, touch, taste and smell. Considerable attention will be devoted to understanding the neural mechanisms responsible for our perceptual experiences and how they change as a result of maturation, learning, injury and disease.

Required Text: At considerable savings to you, I have arranged for the publisher to prepare a custom textbook that includes only those chapters that will be assigned in this course. These chapters are taken from ***Sensation and Perception, 6th Edition*** by E.B. Goldstein. The hardcover version of the full book has been used on campus previously and you may be able to locate used copies.

Additional Readings: Electronic versions of all additional readings (both required and optional) will be available by download in portable document format (pdf) from the course website approximately 1 week in advance.

Course Website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> You will need regular access to the website in order to complete the assignments for this course.

Grading & Course Policy

Eight Weekly Quizzes (25%): At the start of class each Tues. you will complete a 15 min. quiz. This quiz will cover readings and lecture materials from the previous week. Given the large enrollment of the course the format will be limited to some combination of multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, or diagramming or graphing. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped automatically. Note that failure to take a quiz counts as a zero.

Three Examinations: (25% each): Exams will be composed of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer/essay questions. It may also be necessary to complete diagrams or graphs in some cases. Each exam will cover material dating back to the previous examination. **No make-up exams will be given without evidence of a valid excuse**, and the final cannot be taken earlier or later than the time listed in the University final exam schedule. **If you know in advance that you cannot take all exams on the appointed dates (see the course schedule below), then please do not take this course.** If unforeseen circumstances during the term prevent you from taking an exam, notify the instructor immediately.

Grading Curve. If the median score on an Exam is < 75%, then I will rescale the grades upward so that the median = 75%. No curve will be used if the median is ≥ 75%.

Content of Quizzes and Examinations: *Everything* that is covered in class and/or in the assigned readings is fair game. The lectures and readings are meant to *compliment not duplicate* one another. Therefore, you can expect incomplete overlap between material covered in class and the assigned readings.

Extra Credit: You will be able to earn extra credit on examinations by answering questions taken directly from optional readings available on the course website. These readings will enhance your understanding of perceptual processes in everyday life, including the ways in which artists, designers and architects explore and manipulate these phenomena in their work.

Graduate Credit: In addition to completing the work required for Psychology 438, graduate students enrolled in 538 are required to complete an integrative review paper on a research topic approved by me. This topic must be approved no less than 1 month prior to the final examination (before May 6th). The paper will be due at the last class meeting

Lecture Notes On-line: I will be putting my lecture notes (pdf format) on-line starting the second week of class. Lectures will be available within two days after each class. I will not post them before a class, so please don't ask. As a result of intellectual property and copy rights, movies and other demonstrations will not be made available on-line. If you miss a class demo or movie, please make an appointment with Stephan Dickert, and he can show them to you during his office hours.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Hillary Gerdes, hgerdes@oregon.uoregon.edu, tel. 346-3211, TTY 346-1083) send a letter verifying your disability.

ESL Students: If you are a non-native English speaker and think you may have trouble in this course due to language difficulties, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make special arrangements.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (For more information, see the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/>).

Getting the Most Out of Your Experience

Assigned Readings: Read assigned materials before coming to lecture. Otherwise, you may not fully understand what is covered. A little time invested up front will greatly improve your comprehension.

Optional Readings: These have been chosen to enhance your understanding and appreciation of the concepts introduced in the course. Take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your comprehension and grade (through extra credit questions on exams).

Review Sessions: Stephan Dickert will organize an evening review session in advance of each examination. This will provide you with an additional opportunity to clarify any uncertainties.

Class Attendance: Many aspects of this material can best be understood through demonstration. Most or all of these demonstrations will not be available to you outside of the lectures due to copyright and intellectual property laws. Likewise, lectures will include material that is not covered in your readings. Therefore, regular attendance is strongly encouraged.

Office Hours: If you have questions or concerns please do come see us during scheduled hours. Email will not be used as a substitute for face-to-face meetings.

Course Outline

Course Outline: This working course outline will be revised as the quarter progresses, and updates will be posted on the course website. Dates on which particular topics are to be presented in lecture are subject to change, as are reading assignment due dates. However, the dates of quizzes and examinations will remain the same. Note that dates pertaining to assigned readings indicate when they should be completed.

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	Exams/Quizzes
1	March 29	Syllabus & Early Vision: I		
	March 31	Early Vision: II	Chapter 1 (pp. 1-11); Chapter 2	
2	April 5	Intermediate-Level Vision: I	Chapter 3 (pp. 77-94)	Quiz #1
	April 7	Intermediate-Level Vision: II	Chapter 3 (pp. 95-104) Chapter 16 (pp. 545-564)	
3	April 12	Higher-Level Vision: I	Chapter 4 (pp. 109-122)	Quiz #2
	April 14	Higher-Level Vision II	Chapter 4 (pp. 123-140)	
4	April 19	Exam #1		Exam #1
	April 21	Object Perception	Chapter 5	
5	April 26	Color Perception	Chapter 6	Quiz #3
	April 28	Depth and Size	Chapter 7	
6	May 3	Motion Perception	Chapter 8	Quiz #4
	May 5	Perception <i>of</i> Action	TBA	
7	May 10	Perception <i>and</i> Action	Chapter 9	Quiz #5
	May 12	Exam #2		Exam #2
8	May 17	Hearing & Speech: I	Chapter 12	Quiz #6
	May 19	Hearing & Speech: II	Chapter 16 (pp. 564-579)	
9	May 24	Somatosensation & Proprioception	TBA	Quiz #7
	May 26	Chemosensation	TBA	
10	May 31	Non-human Perception	TBA	Quiz #8
	June 2	Perception and the Arts	TBA	
11	8:00am, Fri. June 10th	Final Exam		Final Exam