

Psychology 438/538 (CRN 25259/25273): Perception

Winter 2012: 10:00-11:20 Tues/Thurs (242 Gerlinger Hall)

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Required Text: Sensation and Perception, 8th Edition by E.B. Goldstein (2010). This is a comprehensive text for the course. A copy of the text is on reserve at the Knight Library.

Topics & Readings:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic and Readings</u>
1	1/10	Introduction: Approaches to Studying Perception-- <i>Chapter 1</i>
	1/12	Neural Processing I: Introduction & Methods-- <i>Chapter 2</i>
2	1/17	Neural Processing II: Vision-- <i>Chapter 3</i>
	1/19	Neural Processing III: Vision-- <i>Chapter 4</i>
3	1/24	Neural Processing Cont.
	1/26	EXAM #1
4	1/31	Color Perception-- <i>Chapter 9</i>
	2/2	Object & Scene Perception-- <i>Chapter 5</i>
5	2/7	3D Shape, Depth, and Space Perception-- <i>Chapters 10, 5(pp.116-117), & 8(pp.192-194)</i>
	2/9	3D Shape, Depth, and Space Perception--Cont.
6	2/14	EXAM #2
	2/16	Motion Perception-- <i>Chapter 8</i>
7	2/21	Motion Perception Cont.-- <i>Chapter 7 (pp. 156-161)</i>
	2/23	Perception and Action-- <i>Chapter 7 (pp. 161-173)</i>
8	2/28	Attention-- <i>Chapter 6</i>
	3/1	EXAM #3
9	3/6	Audition: Sound, the Auditory System, & Pitch-- <i>Chapter 11</i>
	3/8	Audition: Sound Localization & the Auditory Scene-- <i>Chapter 12</i>
10	3/13	Somatosensation-- <i>Chapter 14</i>
	3/15	EXAM #4 (All students) & Paper Due (PSY 538 Students only)
11	3/22	*Makeup Exams --Thursday at 8:00am of Finals Week

***Note:** There is no Final Exam (pre-approved Makeup Exams are given during the Final Exam slot).

Course Description: In this course, we will examine the perceptual abilities of the human brain, including vision, hearing, and touch. Toward this end, we will include discussion of the methods used by scientists to examine perceptual abilities, the capabilities and limitations of perception, current knowledge of the underlying neural bases of perception, and brain damage that may affect perception. Perception involves the transformation of incoming signals into useful information or "representations" of the world. While perception seems automatic and effortless, it is really a complicated constructive process. The goal of the course is to understand some of the processes involved in this construction. The modern day study of perception is an interdisciplinary pursuit that includes studies of behavior, the brain, and computers. This course deals with all three types of studies with an emphasis on the first two. It is my hope that by the end of this course, you will have a new appreciation for how you experience the world on a daily basis.

Course Format: The material in this course will be presented through a combination of assigned reading from the text and other sources, class lectures, in-class discussion, and demonstrations. Lecture material and readings will have some overlap, but will not be replications of each other; some lecture material will not be covered in the readings and vice versa. You are expected to do the assigned reading *before* the class period in which it is due. Discussions of the material during lecture will be more fruitful if you have at least a general understanding of the material beforehand, helping you to ultimately comprehend and retain the material.

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 essential for performing well in this class and is strongly encouraged. Questions are encouraged in all parts of the course including during class time, office hours, and via e-mail.

Course Work: The course work consists of 4 exams, as well as a final paper (required for PSY 538 students only).

Exams: The exams consist of a mix of multiple choice questions, as well as short answer and essay questions. For PSY 438 students, the first 3 exams will each count for 26.7% of your grade, the 4th exam (which covers less material) will count for 20% of your grade.

No makeup exams will be given without a valid, excused absence. You will need to present a documented excuse (e.g., doctor's note, court order, or documented athletic events such as away games for student athletes) for a missed exam in order to take a makeup exam. The documented excuse must be presented before (if possible) or ASAP following the exam. **Makeup exams will be administered during the final exam period to only those students with previously excused absences.**

Exams will be graded on a curve.

Paper: In addition to completing the work required for Psychology 438, graduate students enrolled in 538 are required to complete a 6-8 paged paper which can either be 1) an integrative review paper on a research topic related to topics covered in class or 2) a research proposal paper. For the review paper, I suggest that you use the text book as a source for selecting a general topic, followed by library, PsychINFO, and Medline searches for articles. The research proposal paper can be written like a grant proposal (or a journal paper). It should have an introduction, methods (describing proposed experiments, stimuli, procedures, etc.), a description of expected results, a discussion of what various results might mean, and references. **The paper topic must be**

approved by the 6th week of class (by February 16th). The paper will be due at the last class meeting.

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. Extra credit readings for each exam will be available as PDFs on Blackboard posted at least one week prior to each exam.

You can also earn up to 2 points of extra credit (added to your final score) by participating in up to 2 hours of ongoing experimental research in the Psychology Department or by writing a short 2-page paper. The paper can be 1) a written description of a phenomenon described in a recent news item and its relation to the information presented in the lecture and reading (you may execute a web search to find pictures/videos to accompany your paper, and/or dig into the scientific literature to find relevant details and hard data), or 2) a description of (and link to) a demonstration of a psychological phenomenon and its relation to information presented in the lecture and reading materials.

Grading:

	<u>438 students</u>	<u>538 students</u>
Exam #1	26.7%	20%
Exam #2	26.7%	20%
Exam #3	26.7%	20%
Exam #4	20%	15%
Paper		25%

Course Website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>. Electronic versions of all additional readings will be available by download in pdf format from the course website. I will put my lecture notes (also in pdf format) on-line a few hours before each class. All documents can be found in the “Course Documents” folder on Blackboard.

Course Outline: The course outline presented on the first page of the syllabus may 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 examinations will remain the same. Note that dates pertaining to assigned readings indicate when they should be completed.

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 send a letter verifying your disability.

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 student conduct at: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/>).