

PSYC 309-002 Sensation & Perception
9:00 am – 10:15 am TR
Robinson Hall B218 2012

Instructor: Dr Abeba Fekade

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Office Phone: 703-993-5212

Office Hours: TR 1:30-4:30 and 8:30am-9am

Office: Aquia Building room 337

Text: Sensation & Perception 8th Edition, E. Bruce Goldstein, ISBN: 9780495601494

Prerequisites: Psych 300 (C- or better) or permission of instructor.

Course Description and Objective

In this course, you will be introduced to the concepts and mechanisms sensation and perception. You will learn how we perceive the world around us and how we see, hear, touch, smell, and taste. You will gain an understanding of the complex neural and behavioral processes at work in turning sensations into perceptions. Following an introduction to basic concepts in sensation and perception, you will learn in depth the various sensory systems and how in each system sensation is transformed into perception. Although each system is different, you will learn to identify the underlying perceptual principles that all these systems have in common. In addition, you will learn about more complex perceptual concepts such as face recognition, speech perception, and pain perception.

Class Policies

Technology: Blackboard will be used in this course on a regular basis. Important information such as class slides, study guides, and the turn in of assignments will be conducted through blackboard. Students are expected to know how to use Blackboard, please ask if you need assistance using this technology. In addition, information may be sent to the class through GMU E-mail. Please keep your inbox clear, as you are responsible for any information sent to you through e-mail.

Class attendance:

I expect you to come to as many classes as possible, and to be ready to listen, take notes and ask questions. Class participation is not only encouraged but also expected. Please remember that students who attend class and participate actively do much better on exams than students who do not participate and miss class.

Exams: There will be four exams given during the semester. Three non-cumulative exams and one cumulative final exam. The three highest exam grades will be used to calculate the student's final grade. It is your responsibility to make sure you take at least three of the four exams. Under emergency situation exam can only be made up if you receive my permission before the day of the exam with a valid excuse (note from a doctor, judge, sergeant, etc.). The lecture exam counts for 67% of the final grade

Lab 33%: The lab will account for 33% of your total grade in Psychology 309. Late assignments will receive partial credit. *This course fulfills all/in part the Writing-Intensive requirement in the Psychology Department.*

HONOR CODE: Working in a group to discuss course material is encouraged, but all assignments submitted for the lab (unless otherwise specified) should represent your own work. All homework assignments are to be completed individually. Any Honor Code violation will result in a zero for that assignment. All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class, and are further detailed in the university catalog.

DISABILITY HELP: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Final drop deadline dates Feb 1- 24

Calendar:

Note: The schedule below is tentative, and though I will try to follow it as closely as possible changes may occasionally be necessary. In the event that an exam date is changed, you will be notified at least one week in advance.

Date	Chapter	Topic
1/24	Chapter 1	Review Syllabus & Introduction
1/26	Chapter 1	Introduction to Perception
1/31	Chapter 2	The Physiology of perception
2/2	Chapter 2	Neurons Receptors and neural processing
2/7	Chapter 3	The visual system

2/9	Chapter 3	Transforming light into electricity
2/14	Chapter 4	The visual cortex
2/16	Chapter 4	Structures for faces , places, bodies
2/21	Exam 1 Review	Exam 1 Review
2/23	Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4)	Exam 1
2/25	Chapter 5	Perceiving object and scenes
2/28	Chapter 5	The physiology of object and scene perception
3/1	Chapter 6	Visual attention
3/6	Chapter 6	Attention and experience
3/8	Chapter 6	Attention and perceiving the environment
3/13	Spring break	
3/15	Spring break	Taking action
3/20	Chapter 7	Perceiving motion
3/22	Chapter 8	Perceiving motion
3/27	Exam 2 (Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8)	Perceiving biological motion Exam 2
3/29	Chapter 9	Perceiving colors
4/3	Chapter 10	The theories of color perception
4/5	Chapter 11	Perceiving depth and size, Visual illusions
4/10	Chapter 12	Sound localization and the auditory

4/12 4/17	(Ch. 9, 10,11, 12) Exam 3 Chapter 13	Exam Speech perception
4/19 4/24	Chapter 14 Chapter 15	Overview of the cutaneous system The chemical senses Higher order olfactory processing
4/26 5/1	Chapter 16 Chapter 16	Perceptual development
5/3 5/8	Review (Ch.13, 14,15, 16) Exam 4	Review Exam 4
5/10 5/15	Review for final exam Final Exam	Final Exam

Syllabus is subject to change by instructor. Student will be notified in advance of any changes made to the class syllabus.

The instructor reserves the right to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of an honor code violation.