**University of North Texas**

PSYC 4820.001 Sensation and Perception

Fall 2025 Course Syllabus

MWF 11:00am-11:50am

Gab Rm 104

**Instructor:** Dr. Jane Whittington

**Office:** TH 331

**Email:** Jane.Whittington@unt.edu

**Office Hours:** M/W/F 9am-11am, T/R 11am-1pm

**Communication with Dr. Whittington**

My office hours are listed above, I simply request that you email me ahead of time or make arrangements with me in class. I will do my very best to have your assignments or assessments graded in a timely manner. If you have any questions at any point during the class, please feel free to ask.

I want you all to succeed and will do my best to make sure that happens. However, you need to be willing to put in the required effort. I can only help you if I know that there is a problem, so please COMMUNICATE with me! Help me, help you.

**NOTE: I have 48 hours to respond to your emails, as other class responsibilities and obligations may limit my email abilities. Thank you for your patience.**

**Course Overview and Objectives**

This course will involve a discussion of the structure, function, and interpretative properties of the senses. There will be a strong emphasis on the senses of vision and hearing.

**Course Learning Objectives (C.L.Os)**

* Identify the history and methods used in the science of sensation and perception.
* Explain how sensory information in received, processed, and interpreted.
* Evaluate ways in which perceptual information can impact our interaction with, and understanding of the outside world.
* Gain experience in developing a literature review related to the scientific study of sensation and perception.

**Course Structure**

This is an in-person, face-to-face course that meets weekly on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00am-11:50am. Class will begin and end promptly at the respective times. Your attendance is expected and essential and will be taken at the beginning of each class period.

**Required Text**

Schwartz, B.L., & Krantz, J.H. (2024). *Sensation and Perception.* (3rd ed). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

**Minimum Technology Requirements**

* High Speed Internet
* Mobile Hotspot (if you live off campus)
* Speakers
* Microphones
* Plugins
* Ability to stream videos
* Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint and Excel, specifically)
* Outlook Email (your UNT email, specifically)
* Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

**Technical Assistance**

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight

- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight

- Friday: 8am-8pm

- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

**What to Do if Canvas Fails**

All assignments for this course will be submitted through Canvas. Canvas is online technology, and therefore, can crash. If this happens to you, or if you experience any technical difficulties, you must email me and the UNT Student Help Desk (helpdesk@unt.edu) immediately. The UNT Student Help Desk and I will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. If there are technical issues or doubt whether assignments have been/will be successfully submitted, please take a screenshot of the error messages or time-stamped copies of the assignment submissions. Importantly, if you do not email me within 12 hours of your Canvas issue and include a screenshot of the error message you receive, it will likely not be able to be remedied and you will not be able to complete the missed assignment.

**Assessments**

**Article Summaries (10 Assignments; 25%)**

Each week you will have a short article summary due relating to that week’s assigned article. Your summary will have to be substantive and demonstrate an understanding of the content from the assigned article and a connection between the article and that week’s lecture topic. Ultimately, your article summary needs to clarify: (a) What was the research question?, (b) How was the research question answered?, (c) What was the answer to the research question?, and (d) How does this research connect to the lecture topic of the week?

**Quizzes (10 Quizzes; 25%)**

The weekly quizzes will be posted online and contain 5 multiple-choice questions that will cover information discussed in last week’s materials. Each question is assessed objectively and the student’s total score is out of 5.

**Exams (2 Exams; 35%)**

Your exams will be non-cumulative, comprised of 5 short answer questions corresponding with the main topics covered for each corresponding half of the semester. These questions will require you to demonstrate your understanding of various topics by solving applied problems that may be comprised of several steps. Critical thinking will be a crucial component to your success on the exams, not simple mechanical reproduction of definitions and examples from lecture and the textbook.

**Literature Review Paper (1 paper; 15%)**

In this paper you will be required to construct a literature review that entails a deep dive into a topic related to sensation and perception. While you are free to choose the area that you would like to focus on, you will be required to provide ample information from the empirical literature to back up your investigation. Specific details and instructions will be provided as the literature review gets closer in the semester.

**Grading**

Your final course grade will be determined by the following **4 criteria**:

* **Article Summaries:** 25%
* **Quizzes:** 25%
* **Exams:** 35%
* **Literature Review**: 15%
	+ **TOTAL:** 100%

Assignment and Assessments grades will be posted on Canvas.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage** |
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% or Less |

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Class Attendance, Preparation, and Participation Policy**

Attendance in this course or in any course is *essential*. Your understanding of material from one week typically serves as a foundation for material in upcoming weeks of the session. It is important to read the assigned readings prior to the assignments due for the week. That is, the assignments that are due each week assume that you have already read the chapter and/or viewed the Powerpoint slides for the week. It is expected that you regularly attend class and login to Canvas to review, submit, and complete assignments prior to their due dates/times. Therefore, I will regularly check to ensure that students are completing their work and actively participating in class.

Students are expected to read the materials, ask questions, give comments, and, in a word, *participate*. Course success will be negatively impacted by repeated absences and/or lack of participation.

**ODA Students**

If you are an ODA student with accommodations, we will meet the first week of class to discuss your accommodations. You should expect an email from me as soon as I receive your ODA letter confirming your accommodations. Importantly, without the official UNT ODA accommodations letter, you will be expected to complete all assignments as listed in the syllabus.

**Class Recordings**

Since this is an in-person class, lecture recordings will not be created. Importantly, students are not allowed to record class lectures. If a student does create a recording without written consent of the instructor, disciplinary action will be taken.

**Grading Appeals**

If you think you should have received credit for something that was scored as incorrect, you may appeal in writing. Only written requests will be considered. You should e-mail your rationale – this rationale should include references to specific page numbers in your text, lecture dates, the syllabus, etc. to support your appeal. All appeals must occur within 3 days of the due date of the assignment. In addition, remember that despite my best attempts to present an appearance of infallibility, I actually am not. If you are concerned that I have made a recording error, it is always fine to reach out with any questions you have. If you reach out past the 3 day period, no action will be taken.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

Please follow the University’s guidance and I will email you the morning of to answer questions. Should inclement weather impact our ability to meet in person, we will meet via Zoom. The link will be posted on Canvas and emailed to you. Importantly, if you commute to campus and the university is still open, you will be expected to be in class.

**Late Assignments and Extra Credit**

Late submissions will **not** be accepted in this course. It is expected that you will complete all assignments and assessments by their respective due dates and times. Occasional exceptions may be made in the case of a documented illness or significant situation that was out of your control. Some form of written documentation (e.g., note from MD) should accompany your assignment if it is not submitted by the due date/time. You should also email your professor as soon as possible. No exceptions will be made regarding point deductions if acceptable written documentation is not provided.

It is generally not the professor’s policy to provide extra credit opportunities, however if there is any exception to this policy it will be presented to the class via email and a Canvas posting.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEK** | **TOPIC** | **ASSESSMENT** | **ASSIGNMENT** |
| **1***8/18-8/22* | Syllabus Ch. 1: What is Perception? | Submit Syllabus AcknowledgementDue Sunday 8/24 by 11:59pm | N/A |
| **2***8/25-8/29* | Ch. 3: Visual System: The Eye | Article Summary #1 Due Sunday 8/31 by 11:59pm | Quiz #1 Due Monday 9/1 by 10:59am |
| **3***9/1-9/5* | **Labor Day – No Class Monday 9/1**Ch. 5: Object Perception | Article Summary #2 Due Sunday 9/7 by 11:59pm | Quiz #2 Due Monday 9/8 by 10:59am |
| **4***9/8-9/12* | Ch. 6: Color Perception | Article Summary #3 Due Sunday 9/14 by 11:59pm | Quiz #3 Due Monday 9/15 by 10:59am |
| **5***9/15-9/19* | Ch. 7: Depth and Size Perception | Article Summary #4 Due Sunday 9/21 by 11:59pm | Quiz #4 Due Monday 9/22 by 10:59am |
| **6***9/22-9/26* | Ch. 8: Movement and Action | Article Summary #5 Due Sunday 9/28 by 11:59pm | Quiz #5 Due Monday 9/29 by 10:59am |
| **7***9/29-10/3* | Ch. 9: Visual Attention | Study For Midterm Exam |
| **8***10/6-10/10* | Review Sessions in Class Monday and WednesdayMidterm Exam on Friday |
| **9***10/13-10/17* | Ch. 10: The Auditory System | Article Summary #6 Due Sunday 10/19 by 11:59pm | Quiz #6 Due Monday 10/20 by 10:59am |
| **10***10/20-10/24* | Ch. 11: The Auditory Brain and Sound Localization | Article Summary #7 Due Sunday 10/26 by 11:59pm | Quiz #7 Due Monday 10/27 by 10:59am |
| **11***10/27-10/31* | Ch. 12: Speech Perception | Article Summary #8 Due Sunday 11/2 by 11:59pm | Quiz #8 Due Monday 11/3 by 10:59am |
| **12***11/3-11/7* | Ch. 13: Music Perception | Article Summary #9 Due Sunday 11/9 by 11:59pm | Quiz #9 Due Monday 11/10 by 10:59am |
| **13***11/10-11/14* | Ch. 14: Touch and Pain | Literature Review Due Wednesday 11/12 by 11:59pm |
| **14***11/17-11/21* | Ch. 15: Olfaction and Taste | Article Summary #10 Due Sunday 11/23 by 11:59pm | Quiz #10 Due Monday 11/24 by 10:59am |
| **15***11/24-11/28* | Thanksgiving Break No Class | Bonus Assignment Due Sunday 11/30 by 11:59pm | Bonus Quiz Due Monday 12/1 by 10:59am |
| **16***12/1-12/5* | Last Week Class | Review Sessions in Class Monday and Wednesday**Reading Day – No Class Friday 12/5** |
| **17***12/8-12/12* | Final Exam TBD |