



Sensation and Perception PSYC 4820.003

Spring 2026 Course Syllabus

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00 PM-3:20 PM

Location: ENV 125

Instructor: Michael D. Barnett, Ph.D.

Office: TH 242

Office Hours: TBD

Email: Michael.Barnett@unt.edu

TA: Rebekah Griffin, B.S.

TA Office: Office hours via zoom

TA Office Hours: TBD

Email: rebekahgriffin@my.unt.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW: The philosophical history of perception, psychophysics, neurobiological substrates of human sensory systems leading to phenomenological perception, body-brain sensory processing pathways, and the neuropsychology of disrupted sensation and perception.

TEXTBOOK: Schwartz, B. L. & Krantz, J. H. (2019). *Sensation and Perception (2nd Edition)*. Sage. (ISBN: 97815106383910)

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Exams:** There are four handwritten exams that will be taken in person. On exam days, students 1) must bring their own writing utensil and paper, and 2) all electronic devices must be put away! You will have the entire class time to answer five short essay prompts. We will not deduct points for spelling or grammatical errors, as long as your response is legible enough to be understood. Exam days are on Thursdays, and there will be no formal class on Tuesdays before an exam, so you can use that time to study. A study guide will be posted at least one week before each exam.
- **Digital Journal Assignments:** There are two digital journal assignments on Canvas to be completed throughout the semester (see schedule for due dates). The purpose is to help you engage with course material outside of the classroom and connect course topics to real-world experiences. Students will digitally capture (e.g., photo, video, audio recording) an experience from their daily life that relates to a course topic; content may include people, places, objects, sounds, or anything related to a course-specific topic of your choice. You will upload your digital content to Canvas along with a paragraph that describes what you captured, defines the course-related topic, and then connects your lived observation to the learned concept (detailed instructions and rubric can be found on Canvas).
- **Extra Credit:** Students may increase their final grade by earning research credits through the SONA system. One research credit earned through SONA is worth 4.5 course points, and students can apply a maximum of 10 research credits (45 course

points). For more information on how to register, visit **SONA Website:** <http://unt.sona-systems.com/> or **SONA Help page:** <http://sites.google.com/site/sonasystemshelp/>.

GRADING SCALE: Final grades are determined by comparing total points earned to the letter grade scale.

Assignment	Points
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Exam 4	100
Digital Journal Assignment 1	25
Digital Journal Assignment 2	25
Total course points	450

Letter Grade Scale:

A = 405-450

B = 360-404

C = 315-359

D = 270-314

**Maximum extra credit allowed is 45 points*

COURSE GUIDELINES

- **Late Policy:** Assignments may receive -2 points every 24 hours late.
- **Student Behavior in the Classroom:** Please limit distractions and respect others.
- **Email Policy:** Before sending a message, please check the syllabus. If you have questions about course content, please email me at Michael.Barnett@unt.edu. Email the TA regarding questions about specific assignments or due dates/course schedule.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Class Dates: Tues & Thurs	Lecture Topics Discussed	Exams/Study Days
1	01/13, 01/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction/Syllabus review • Ch.1 What is Perception? 	
2	01/20, 01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 2 Research Methodology 	
3	01/27, 01/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 3 Visual System: The Eye • Ch. 4 Visual System: The Brain 	
4	02/03, 02/05		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No class on 02/03 ➤ Exam 1 on 02/05 [in class]
5	02/10, 02/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 5 Object Perception • Ch. 6 Color Perception 	
6	02/17, 02/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 7 Depth and Size Perception 	
7	02/24, 02/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 8 Movement and Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Digital journal assignment 1 due @11:59 PM on 02/26
8	03/03, 03/05		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No class on 03/03 ➤ Exam 2 on 03/05 [in class]
9	03/10, 03/12	SPRING BREAK!	
10	03/17, 03/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 9 Visual Attention 	
11	03/24, 03/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 10 The Auditory System • Ch. 11 The Auditory Brain and Sound Localization 	
12	03/31, 04/02		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No class on 03/31 ➤ Exam 3 on 04/02 [in class]
13	04/07, 04/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 12 Speech Perception 	
14	04/14, 04/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 13 Music Perception 	
15	04/21, 04/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 14 Touch and Pain • Ch. 15 Olfaction and Taste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Digital journal assignment 2 due @11:59 PM on 04/23
16	04/28, 04/30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No class on 04/28 ➤ Exam 4 on 04/30 [in class]
17	05/05, 05/07	Finals week-No Class	

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / MISCONDUCT: Students are reminded that academic misconduct will not be tolerated. For example: (a) copying another students work, in part or in whole; (b) unauthorized communication to obtain information about a test(s); (c) using unauthorized material during a test; (d) handing in any work product that is not your own; (e) signing someone else's name; (f) failing to give credit to the intellectual property of another in any written work (including, but not limited to, plagiarizing). For a more extensive listing of behaviors that are considered "cheating" or "plagiarism", please refer to the official statement of UNT regarding these matters, which may be accessed as part of the *Student Handbook* at the following website: <http://www.unt.edu/csrr> Please note that specific penalties, including assigning a failing grade in this course, may be assigned by the course instructor. For further information on academic misconduct, penalties, and appeal procedures, please view the "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline" at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html

ACCOMMODATIONS: If anyone needs note-taking or test-taking accommodations, please discuss these with the course instructor early in the semester, no later than the 12th day of class. Also, anyone needing test-taking accommodations for religious observances is invited to discuss this with the course instructor early in the semester, again no later than the 12th day of class.

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request an accommodation at any time. However, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

INCOMPLETE GRADES: "I" is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a form signed by the instructor, student, and department chair and must be entered on the grade roster by the instructor. See also "Removal of I" policy in the Academics section of undergraduate catalog. (The UNT Catalog generally allows up to 1 year to remove an "I" grade.). Grades of "I" assigned to an undergraduate course at the end of the Fall 2007 semester and later, will default to "F" unless the instructor has designated a different automatic grade.