

Psychology 321
Perception
Fall term, 1987

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Richmond Hall 117
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Class Meetings

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
11:30 A.M.-12:20 P.M.
108 Richmond Hall

Office Hours

Mondays 1:30 -3:00 P.M.
Wednesdays 3:30 -4:30 P.M.
Fridays 1:30 P.M. -3:00 P.M.

Objectives

The aim of the course is to provide students with a broad introduction to the literature of psychology of perception with particular emphasis on theory, research, issues, and methodology. By the end of the course, the student should know the basics of the science of perception through information covered in the lectures and the text. The student will also develop an expertise in some subtopic area related to perception. The student will be given an opportunity to integrate and critically evaluate a subset of the recent research literature by writing a literature review and then a research proposal. These papers will serve to reinforce the APA style of writing. The purpose of the paper assignments is to allow the pursuit and development of some particular area of interest possibly leading to subsequent empirical research. Student-teacher discussion is encouraged.

Text and Readings

The text we will be using is:

Coren, S., Porac, C., & Ward, L. M. (1984). Sensation and Perception (Second Ed). Orlando, FL: Academic Press.

In addition to the text there will be several selected primary source materials assigned during the course of the semester to supplement the text material.

Exams

There will be two exams given during the course of the semester plus a comprehensive final exam during the regularly scheduled final exam period. The exams will be based on the text, the assigned readings, and the lectures. The first two exams will each account for 20% of the course grade. The final exam will account for 25%. Late exams will be assessed an automatic penalty equal to 25% of the exam grade per day.

Papers

Two papers are required. They should be constructed in the form directed by the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (i.e. APA style). The first paper is a literature review (12-15 pages) on some subset of cognitive psychology which should include an evaluation of theoretical and empirical background information. Example literature reviews can be found in the journal Psychological Bulletin. The second paper is a research proposal addressing a question related to their literature review. The second paper should have an introduction (most probably containing a shortened rewrite of the first paper), followed by a method section, and a discussion of expected results. Consult the instructor for paper topic approval and suggestions in advance of the due dates. The literature review is due Friday, October 23 and will count towards 15% of the final grade. The proposal paper is due Friday, December 4 and will count towards 20% of the final grade. Late papers will automatically lose 8.0% of the paper grade per day.

Attendance Policy

Students will be expected to attend each class meeting. Four unexcused penalties are allowed without penalty. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in an automatic penalty of one letter-grade on the final course grade. All excused absences require a written note by a physician, a law enforcement officer, or your college Dean. Prohibitive weather (as defined as instructor unable to get to campus, etc.) will be excused. There may be legitimate excuses other than legal and medical and the instructor will rule on these individually. Oral communication of excuses is not acceptable and will be ignored. Of course if you miss any class you are responsible for the material covered in lecture and any assignments made when you are absent.

When work is missed because of an excused absence, make-up will be by the class meeting following the missed session unless previously arranged with the instructor. Students anticipating missing class because of excused university related activity are expected to complete work before the due date.

Some of the excuses that are not considered legitimate include, but are not limited to: (1) Ride leaving early or only available flight, etc., (2) Big dance, party, or other social event, and (3) Forgot the exam or paper due date.

To facilitate the recording of attendance students will be expected to sit in the same seat location after the first week. That is, establish where you want to sit by September 4. At the beginning of each class period the instructor will consult a seating chart and will mark absent anyone not present at the time. Tardiness will be penalized.

Honor Code

Students are expected to learn, know and abide by the established University of Richmond Honor Code.

Grading

A+	At least 97.5%	B -	At least 80.0%	D	At least 62.5%
A	At least 92.5%	C+	At least 77.5%	D-	At least 60%
A-	At least 90.0%	C	At least 72.5%	F	59.9% or less
B+	At least 87.5%	C-	At least 70.0%		
B	At least 82.5%	D+	At least 67.5%		

Perception Calender

Aug 28 - Sept 4	Course Introduction, Psychophysics	Chapters 1 & 2
Sept 7 - 11	Psychophysics	Chapter 2
Sept 14 - 18	Neuropsychology of the Visual System	Chapter 3
Sept 21 - 25	Neuropsychology of the Auditory System	Chapter 4
Sept 28 - Oct 2	Color Vision	Chapter 7
Oct 2	<u>Literature Review Paper Due</u>	
Oct 5 - Oct 7	Brightness & Spatial Freq	Chapter 6
Oct 9	EXAM1	
Oct 12	<u>Fall Break</u> (Columbus Day)	
Oct 14 - 16	Space, Motion, Time	Chapters 10 & 11
Oct 26 - Oct 30	Form, Constancies	Chapters 5 & 9
Oct 30	<u>Proposal Paper Due</u>	
Nov 2 - 7	Smell, Taste, Touch, Pain	Chapters 5 & 9
Nov 9 - 13	Hearing & Speech	Chapters 8 & 10
Nov 16	EXAM 2	
Nov 18 - 23	Attention & Learning	Chapters 15 & 17
Nov 30 - Dec 4	Perceptual Development	Chapter 16
Dec 7 - 9	Practical Applications	
Dec 12 - 18	<u>Final Exam Week</u>	