PSY 336 Sensation and Perception
Fall 2007
Credit hours: 3
Mo We Fr 3 8.00 - 8.50
AB4 Rm 302

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Office hours: Refer to grading policy.

Required Text: Sensation and Perception. (7th ed.) by E. Bruce Goldstein.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE
Please take note that this is a proposed schedule. Any changes in the schedule (especially EXAMS) will be announced in class. If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to get information on any updated changes from classmates. In addition to the scheduled chapters, there will be numerous classroom CD-Rom demonstrations of the various phenomena mentioned in the text.

Part 1.
Introduction to perception.
Receptors and Neural Processing
The Lateral Geniculate Nucleus and Striate Cortex
Higher Level Visual Processing
FIRST EXAM Sep 28

Part 2
Perceiving objects and forms
Perceiving color
Perceiving depth and size
SECOND EXAM Oct 26

Part 3
Perceiving Movement
Perception and Action
Sound, the Auditory System and Pitch Perception
Clinical aspects of vision
THIRD EXAM Nov 14

Part 4
The cutaneous senses
The chemical senses
FINAL EXAM week of Dec 10 (Refer to Final Schedule)
OBJECTIVES.

The last two decades have seen the fields of sensory and perceptual processes exploding into major subdivisions in psychology and neurophysiology. The five basic senses that we possess, we use incessantly and yet we rarely pause long enough to appreciate the complexities and intricacies that are involved in each sophisticated operation. This course is designed to provide us with an understanding of the processes underlying each of the senses. If we were to believe what we see, we would be turned into the most cynical skeptic in an illusory world. We will come to grips with well-known perceptual problems -- why, for instance, in a geometrical illusion figure, one line looks longer than another of equivalent length. In addition to exploring the human senses, we will also consider the sensory and perceptual processes of some other members of the animal kingdom. By the end of the semester, we may perceive the world differently (perhaps with a sense of awe and wonder, or with a greater sense of skepticism) but we will have gained a better understanding and appreciation of ourselves, and especially of the sensory world in which we exist.

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individuals otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodations.”