

PSY 336 Sensation and Perception
Fall 2008
Credit hours: 3
Mo, We, Fr 8- 8.50
AB4 302

Instructor: T. C. Sim, Ph.D.
Office: Rm. 333, AB4
Tel: 294-1507
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.

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| Part 1. | Introduction to perception.
Receptors and Neural Processing
The Lateral Geniculate Nucleus and Striate Cortex
Higher Level Visual Processing
FIRST EXAM | Sep 26 |
| Part 2 | Perceiving objects and forms
Perceiving color
Perceiving depth and size
SECOND EXAM | Oct 24 |
| Part 3 | Perceiving Movement
Perception and Action
Sound, the Auditory System and Pitch Perception
Clinical aspects of vision
THIRD EXAM | Nov 21 |
| Thanksgiving recess | | Nov 26, 27, 28 |
| Part 4 | The cutaneous senses
The chemical senses
FINAL EXAM | Dec 12 |

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"

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Office hours: Mon, Tue: 9-10; Tue Thu: 9.30 - 11.00, 2-3p, or by appointment.

Grading policy:

There will be at least four (4) major in-class examinations with approximately 50 multiple-choice questions. There may also be essay questions in certain segments of the course and will be announced prior to the start of that segment. **All assignments must be submitted in hard copies, and late submissions will not be accepted. No make-up exam will be given... unless there is a serious illness or a death in the immediate family. Documentary evidence must be provided. NO EXCEPTIONS**

Absence from a scheduled exam or class quiz will be equivalent to a score of zero. Students are encouraged to take note of exam schedules for all classes. **All exams** must be taken on the scheduled day and **no one** may ask for a postponement or to take the exam in advance because of multiple exams on the same day (**especially for FINALS**). If you have more than one exam on the same day, give yourself ample time to prepare. The final grade will be based on the average of all exams. **Students who are late on the day of the test will not be allowed to take the test if a classmate has already completed the test and has left the room. Students who are dishonest in exams will receive a grade of F for the course and will be referred to the appropriate disciplinary body .**

The final grade for the course will be based on the points scored by the student divided by the number of available points for all exams combined.

A = 90% - 100% C = 70% - 79%

B = 80% - 89% D = 60% - 69%

6 absences: Highest possible grade B

8 absences: Highest possible grade C

10 absences: Highest possible grade D

12 absences: F

Attendance Policy: Attendance at all class meetings will be expected. Students who leave before dismissal of class will be considered as absent. **Students with 6 absences will be dropped a letter grade, and will forfeit all accrued extra credit. Students who are habitually tardy will forfeit all extra credits earned.**

Class Participation:

Students will be expected to read assigned text by class time and to be able to participate in class discussions. The exams will include all topics discussed in class, and the assigned text. In addition to the in-class examinations, students will also have the opportunity to make presentations to enhance their course grades. **Students who miss class meetings will be responsible for getting the lecture notes from their classmates.** If you anticipate missing class for an extended period (out of town emergency, chronic illness, etc.) it will be to your advantage, as well as good courtesy, to keep me informed.

If you have any questions about the class material, please contact me during my posted office hours. You may also call me at my office outside of the posted hours. If you have any questions concerning any material discussed in class or in the text, I strongly encourage you to raise those concerns in class. If the scheduled time is not convenient, do not hesitate to make an appointment. As long as I am in my office, you are invited to come in and discuss any pertinent issue.

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. **Students who are guilty of any of the above offences will be given a failing grade for the course.**

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

Students who, by being habitually tardy, sleeping in class, or engage in any form of behavior that is disruptive and detrimental to maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning will be penalized with a letter grade demotion. All cellular phones and personal pagers are to be switched off during class time.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Visitors in the Classroom

At the discretion of the instructor, unannounced visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.