

Psychology of Perception (PSYC 3304) Spring 2008

Time: Tues/Thurs 2:40-4:05 PM

Place: Psychology Bldg 230

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Olney

Email: aolney@memphis.edu

Office: room 403c (Fedex Institute of Technology)

Office hours: Tues 4:30-5:30

Phone: 678-5008

Description: This course will provide a basic introduction to sensory perception. Topics include vision, hearing, taste, smell, touch, pain, and vestibular perception. Perceptual experience results from the interaction of the physical environment (e.g. light, air pressure waves) with the nervous system. The course aims to provide a basic understanding of the links between perception, brain activity, and physical events in the world.

Objectives: By the end of the course you should:

- Understand the relevance of neural events to the explanation of perceptual experience
- Have developed your knowledge of the distinctive features of the major sensory modalities
- Gain an understanding of and appreciation for the complex processes involved in your experience with the world around you.

Methods and Activities:

- Reading assignments completed before class
- Questions ready before class
- Class lecture and discussion
- Review materials at <http://www.psypress.com/mather/resources/>
- Online quizzes at <http://www.psypress.com/mather/resources/>

Textbook: Mather, G. (2006). *Foundations of Perception*. ISBN: 0-86377-835-6

Grading: Final grades will be determined on the basis of four in-class exams (19% each) and twelve online quizzes (2% each). Exam content will be drawn from lectures and assigned readings. The exam format is usually multiple choice/short-answer, but it may change at the instructor's discretion. Online quizzes consist of both fill-in-the-blanks and multiple choice questions for a specified chapter. Results from online quizzes must be handed in on-time, according to the due date given in the course schedule. Quizzes are found online at <http://www.psypress.com/mather/resources/>

Course Format: The majority format is lecture, with some class discussion and demonstrations of perceptual phenomena. Class attendance and participation are strongly encouraged. Assigned readings will be drawn from the textbook and relevant journal articles.

Make-up Policy: Work is expected to be turned in on time unless arrangements have been made prior to the due date. No credit will be given for late work. Please plan ahead and arrange to be present for all exams (listed on course schedule, attached). Make-ups are given *only* under *extreme circumstances* and with prior permission of instructor.

Course Announcements: Course announcements as well as consultation with the instructor may occur via e-mail messages. Each student must maintain an e-mail account and is responsible for checking for course messages daily. Students are also responsible for notifying the instructor if their e-mail address changes during the term. The University of Memphis offers free e-mail services to students. Students without an e-mail account can bring their university ID cards, swipe them, and set up an account at the Smith or McWherter computer labs or students can bring their cards to the information technology helpdesk, room 124 in Administration Building for assistance.

Cell Phones: Please turn off your cell phone before class begins.

Getting Help: If you have any difficulties during the course, let me know immediately. See me during office hours or contact me by email. It is important to notify me as soon as possible if you think you are losing track. Keep in mind: not asking questions is always worse than asking questions you think are silly (instead, often those questions turn out to be challenging!).

Office Hours: Office hours are the perfect opportunity to discuss teaching and research issues. Do you want to have more information on a certain topic? Do you have difficulties finding a research question or writing a paper? Do you feel uncomfortable about assignments? Are you looking for work in a research lab? Do you have suggestions or comments? See me during office hours or send me an email.

Special Accommodations for Disabilities: Disability Accommodations Reasonable and appropriate modifications will be provided to students with disabilities who present a memo from Student Disabilities Services (110 Wilder Tower; phone: 678-2880). Students must take the following actions to obtain disability accommodations and services at The University of Memphis:

- Register with the Student Disability Services Office and provide the Office with appropriate qualifying medical or psycho-educational documentation that establishes the existence of a qualifying disability and provides a rationale for reasonable accommodation, if applicable.
- Make their disability related needs and specific requests known in a timely manner to the appropriate people, such as their Student Disability Services Coordinator, their professors or other relevant staff ; and
- Follow the established procedures of the University and the Student Disability Services Office for acquiring needed services, accommodations and adjustments.

The University is not responsible for providing services or making academic accommodations or adjustments until the above conditions have been met. Disability accommodations are not retroactive but go into effect at the point these conditions have been met. For more information see <http://saweb.memphis.edu/sds/> and <http://policies.memphis.edu/UM1480.htm>

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct: Plagiarism or cheating may result in your case being referred to the Academic Discipline Committee that addresses academic misconduct. This decision is up to the discretion of the instructor. Students are expected at all times to behave in accordance with the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Expectations for

academic integrity and student conduct are described in detail on the website of the Office of Student Judicial and Ethical Affairs (<http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs>). Please take a look, in particular, at the sections about “Academic Dishonesty,” “Student Code of Conduct and Responsibilities,” and “Disruptive Behaviors.” I will expect students to be aware of these guidelines and to conduct themselves accordingly. I take academic honesty extremely seriously. I will not tolerate any form of plagiarism, cheating or other cases of academic dishonesty and am obligated to notify the chair of the department and take serious actions through university channels in those circumstances. For instance, whenever your research papers contain other researcher’s ideas, make sure you reference them in the appropriate format. Keep in mind that sophisticated computer technologies are able to detect plagiarism from articles, the Internet and/or student essays. In sum: Be honest

Diversity in the Classroom: Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of minority perspectives and voices, and the appreciation of different cultural and socioeconomic group practices. We aspire to foster and maintain an atmosphere that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Academic courses will aim at providing opportunities for students to discuss issues of diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity, gender, disability and sexual orientation as they can be related to course content. The University of Memphis has adopted policies prohibiting discrimination based upon race, sex, disability, or sexual orientation. In addition, the American Psychological Association has explicit policies regarding the issues of and writing about race, gender, class, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, and religion. You may find information on these standards in the APA Publication Manual or on the APA webpage: <http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
Jan. 15	Syllabus and Introduction	Syllabus
Jan. 17	General Principles and Themes	Mather, pp. 3-5, 12-23
Jan. 22	Methods, Psychophysics, Empirical & Theoretical Approaches	Mather, pp. 5-12, 24-37 (Online quiz 1 due Jan 24)
Jan. 24		
Jan. 29	Introduction to Visual Perception- Optics, Retina	Mather, pp. 145-151, 155-162 (Online quiz 6 due)
Jan. 31	Visual Physiology & Pathways	Mather, pp. 179-190, 192-206 (Online quiz 7 due)
Feb. 5	Spatial Vision	Mather, pp. 215-218, 226-229, 231-239 (Online quiz 8 due)
Feb. 7	Object recognition guest lecture (Scotty Craig)	Mather, pp. 248-251, 253-260
Feb. 12	Scene perception guest lecture (Nick Benesh)	Mather, pp. 263-265 (Online quiz 9 due)
Feb. 14	*** EXAM 1 ***	
Feb. 19	Depth Perception	Mather, pp. 271-284 (Online quiz 10 due)
Feb. 21	Visual tracking guest lecture (Rick Dale)	Mather, pp. 164-167
Feb. 26	Perception of Motion in the Visual Field	Mather, pp. 297-300, 302-305, 308-310, 313-317 (Online quiz 11 due)
Feb. 28	Color Perception	Mather, pp. 325-8, 330-332, 335-337 (Online quiz 12 due)
Mar. 4&6	Spring Break	
Mar. 11	Eyetracking guest lecture (Max Louwerse)	
Mar. 13	*** EXAM 2 ***	
Mar. 18	Introduction to Auditory Perception	Mather, pp. 81-84, 90-105 (Online quiz 4 due)
Mar. 20	Loudness and Pitch Perception	Mather, pp. 118-120, 123-125 (Online quiz 5 due)
Mar. 25	Speech perception guest lecture (Rick Dale)	Mather, pp. 130-134, 134-136
Mar. 27	Emotion perception guest lecture (Sidney D'Mello)	
Apr. 1	*** EXAM 3 ***	
Apr. 3	Somatosensory Perception	Mather, pp. 55-58, 63
Apr. 8	Vestibular Perception	Mather, pp. 64-74 (Online quiz 3 due)
Apr. 10	Perspectives on the Sixth Sense	https://umdrive.memphis.edu/aolney/internal/touch_files.zip
Apr. 15	Gustatory (Taste) Perception	Mather, pp. 44-49
Apr. 17	Olfaction guest lecture (Sidney D'Mello)	Mather, pp. 39-44 (Online quiz 2 due)
Apr. 22	*** EXAM 4 ***	