

Psychology 2050, *Perception*, Professor James Cutting
Fall, 2009

Uris Auditorium
TR, 1:25-2:40

SYLLABUS

Text: J. M. Wolff et al, *Sensation & Perception*
2009, 2nd ed., Sutherland, MA: Sinauer

Course Website: through Blackboard

Extra credit: <http://susan.psych.cornell.edu/>

Office Hours: (in Uris Hall) & **email**
J. Cutting, 270, M 9:45-11:15, jec7
Catalina Iricinschi, B84, W 1:00-3:00 ci36

Goals: To understand how our sensory systems sculpt our experience of the world around us.
To understand how our senses differ and are similar.
To understand methodologies and some statistical techniques used to assure us of how our senses work.
To place the workings of the human body and its senses within an evolutionary context, and to understand how these developed both across species and within our own lifespans.
And to begin to come to grips with the duality of having both minds and brains.

Week	Day	Date	Lecture number and topic Reading assignment	[Lectures will be recorded and placed on the course website as .mp3 files. Slides in .pdf and] .ppt format will appear there too]
0	R	27 Aug:	1. Doctrine of the specific qualities of nerves. no reading assignment.	
1	T	1 Sep:	2. Two metaphors for cognitive neuroscience. Chapter 1: 2-27. Introduction.	
	R	3 Sep:	3. Two psychophysical phenomena. no reading assignment.	
2	T	8 Sep:	4. Signal detection. Chapter 13: 330-358. Olfaction.	
	R	9 Sep:	5. Taste, olfaction, and the vomeronasal organ. Chapter 14: 360-382. Taste.	
3	T	15 Sep:	6. Three kinds of adaptation. no reading assignment.	
	R	17 Sep:	7. Skin, pain, and phantom limbs. Chapter 12: 298-329. Touch.	
4	T	22 Sep:	8. Haptics, posture, and movements Chapter 9: Hearing: Physiology and acoustics.	
	R	24 Sep:	9. Sounds, the ear, and deafness. Chapter 10: 248-273: Hearing in the environment.	

- 5 T 29 Sep: 10. Speech perception.
Chapter 11: 274-297. Music and speech perception.
- R 1 Oct: 11. **FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**, during class time.
Question answering session to be arranged. No make ups.
- 6 T 6 Oct: 12. Parapsychology
no reading assignment.
- R 8 Oct: 13. Light and the eye. [1st prelims handed back]
Chapter 2: 28-49. The first steps in vision.
- 7 T 13 Oct: Fall Break
- R 15 Oct: 14. Lateral and temporal inhibition.
no reading assignment.
- 8 T 20 Oct: 15. Visual pathways.
Chapter 3: 50-77. Spatial vision.
- R 22 Oct: 16. Hemispheric specialization.
no reading assignment
- 9 T 27 Oct: 17. Acuity reconsidered
Chapter 4: 78-101. Perceiving and recognizing objects.
- R 29 Oct: 18. Gestalt psychology and the perception of form
no reading assignment.
- 10 T 3 Nov: 19. Color, history, and physiology
Chapter 5: 104-131. The perception of color.
- R 5 Nov: 20. Color, luminance, and pathways
no reading assignment.
- 11 T 10 Nov: 21. Depth and layout
Chapter 6: 132-166. Space and binocular vision.
- R 12 Nov: 22. Invariant, gradients, & fractals.
no reading assignment.
- 12 T 17 Nov: 23. Motion and film.
Chapter 7: 168-187. Motion perception.
- R 19 Nov: 24. **SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**. material since 1st prelim.
Question answering session to be arranged. No make ups.
- 13 T 24 Nov: 25. Illusions.
Chapter 8: 188-217. Attention and scene perception.
- R 26 Nov: Thanksgiving recess
- 14 T 1 Dec: 26. Perception of faces.
no reading assignment.
[2nd prelims handed back with provision final grades]
- R 3 Dec: 27. The common sensibles and sensory substitution.
no reading assignment

F 18 Dec: **FINAL EXAM.** 2:00 – 4:30 PM. Comprehensive.
 Question answering session to be arranged. No early exams.

It is expected that all students will follow the Cornell Code of Academic Integrity:
<http://www.cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>

Contract: Your grade will be determined by the mean of your two highest grades. Thus, if you are happy with your two prelim grades, you need not take the final. But, there are no makeups for the prelims or for the final. [Members of athletic teams and others away on Cornell University business during the prelims may take the exam while they are away under the supervision of a trainer, coach, or faculty sponsor. Please notify me well in advance so that arrangements can be made.]

Extra credit: Given that the bulk of the presentation of material in this course is experimental, I have found it useful for students to participate in experiments. To this end, you may earn up to three points of extra credit towards your grade should you choose to participate in these experiments, as sponsored through this class. These points would be added to your second lowest grade, after the lowest has been dropped.