SYLLABUS

Text: E. B. Goldstein, Sensation and Perception
(9th ed.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage
http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/1-1OUWGMI
Course Website: through Blackboard
Extra credit: https://cornellpsych.sona-systems.com/

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 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 develop both across species and within our own life spans. To begin to come to grips with the duality of having both minds and brains.

Week Day Date Lecture number and topic Reading assignment
1 T 26 Aug: 1. Doctrine of the specific qualities of nerves. Mueller & Oppenheimer paper, on the course Blackboard site.
3 T 9 Sep: 5. Olfaction Chapter 15: 363-386. The chemical senses.
4 T 16 Sep: 7. Three kinds of adaptation. no reading assignment

R  2 Oct:  12. **FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**, during class time.  
            Question answering session to be arranged for 1 Oct. No make ups.  

7  T  7 Oct:  13. Parapsychology  
            no reading assignment.  

            review Chapter 2: 21-49. The beginnings of perception.  

8  T 14 Oct:  Fall Break  

            Chapter 3: 61-71. Neural processing and perception.  
            [1st prelims handed back]  

            Chapter 4: 77-93. Cortical organization.  

            no reading assignment  

10 T 28 Oct:  18. Acuity reconsidered  
            Chapter 5: 95-123. Perceiving objects and scenes.  

R 30 Oct:  19. M.C. Escher and the perception of form  
            no reading assignment  

11 T  4 Nov:  20. Color, history, and physiology  

R  6 Nov:  22. Color, luminance, and pathways  

12 T 11 Nov:  23. Depth and layout  
            Chapter 10: 227-257. Perceiving depth and size.  

R 13 Nov:  24. Motion and movies.  
            Chapter 8: 175-196. Perceiving motion  

            no reading assignment  

            Question answering session to be arranged for 12 Nov. No make ups.  


R 27 Nov:  Thanksgiving  

            [2nd prelims handed back with provisional final grades]  
            no reading assignment.  

R  4 Dec:  29. The common sensibles and sensory substitution.  
            no reading assignment  

TBA (~22 Sept):  **FINAL EXAM.** Comprehensive. Location to be arranged.  
            Question answering session to be arranged. No early exams.
OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

It is expected that all students will follow the Cornell Code of Academic Integrity: http://provost.cornell.edu/docs/0814-academic-integrity.pdf

**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.

**Students with Disabilities:** Please give me your Student Disability Services (SDS) accommodation letter early in the semester so that I have adequate time to arrange your approved academic modifications. Meeting with me in my office hours will help ensure confidentiality. If you need an immediate accommodation for equal access, please speak with me after class or send an email message to me and/or SDS at sds_cu@cornell.edu. If the need arises for additional accommodations during the semester, please contact SDS.

**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 sponsored experiments through the website SONA. These points would be added to your second lowest grade, after the lowest has been dropped. Again the URL is: https://cornellpsych.sona-systems.com/ Questions can be directed to: sona-admin@cornell.edu.