Psychology 2050, *Perception*  
Professor James Cutting Fall, 2016

**SYLLABUS**

**Text:** E. B. Goldstein & J. R. Brockmole, *Sensation and Perception* (10th ed.)  
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage  

**Course Website:** through Blackboard  

**Office Hours:** (all in Uris Hall) & email  
J. Cutting, 274, M 9:45-11:15, or appt jec7  
Steven Elmlinger, 233, W 3:30-5:30 sle64

**Extra credit:** [https://cornellpsych.sona-systems.com/](https://cornellpsych.sona-systems.com/)  
Olivia Wen, B68, T 3:00-5:00 xw383

**Goals:**  
To understand how our sensory systems sculpt our experience of the world around us.  
To understand how our senses differ and how they 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture number and topic</th>
<th>Reading assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>1. Doctrine of the specific qualities of nerves.</td>
<td>Mueller &amp; Oppenheimer paper, on the course Blackboard site.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>6. Taste and the vomeronasal organ</td>
<td>no reading assignment.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>7. Three kinds of adaptation.</td>
<td>no reading assignment</td>
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R  29 Sep:  12. **FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**, during class time.
Question answering session to be arranged for 28 Sep. **No make ups.**

7  T  4 Oct:  13. Parapsychology
no reading assignment.

review Chapter 2: 21-47. The beginnings of perception.

8  T  11 Oct:  Fall Break

Chapter 3: 49-70. Neural processing

[1st prelims handed back]

Chapter 4: 73-91. Cortical organization.

no reading assignment

Chapter 5: 93-122. Perceiving objects and scenes.

R  27 Oct:  19. M.C. Escher and the perception of form
no reading assignment

11 T  1 Nov:  20. Color, history, and physiology

R  3 Nov:  21. Color, luminance, and pathways
Chapter 7: 149-169. Taking action.

12 T  8 Nov:  22. Depth and layout
Chapter 10: 227-257. Perceiving depth and size.

R  10 Nov:  23. Motion and movies.
Chapter 8: 171-193. Perceiving motion

no reading assignment

R  17 Nov:  25. **SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.** material since 1st prelim.
Question answering session to be arranged for 16 Nov. No make ups.


R  25 Nov:  Thanksgiving

15 T  29 Nov:  27. Illusions.
[2nd prelims handed back with provisional final grades]
no reading assignment.

R  1 Dec:  28. The common sensibles and sensory substitution.
o reading assignment

TBA:  **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://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm

**Grading & A Contract:** Most of 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. You prelims and/or final exam grade will count 90% of your course grade. 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.

In addition to the prelims and final, there will be six “pop short essays.” That is, at the end of certain lectures you will be asked to write (longhand) for five minutes a short paragraph on a topic from the course, not necessarily from that day’s lecture or reading. Your lowest score of these six will also be dropped. Each of the essays counts 2% toward your final grade.

**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 (but not questionnaire studies). 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.

**Secondary Posting of Course Material.** There are a number of commercial sites, the most prominent of which is Course Hero, that encourage students to post materials from their classes. While students are only supposed to post material that they have created or for which they have permission to post, in many cases faculty-authored material is posted without permission. Let me be clear: you do NOT have permission to re-post material from the Blackboard course site or to sell that material, either on your own or to a commercial vendor.

TakeNote sometimes chooses this course to notate, and then sell their notes to students. They have thus “authored” that material. I do not endorse the use of their notes (I have found that they are sometimes inaccurate), but I see no reason to restrict your use of their notes.