Psychology 2050, *Perception*  
Professor James Cutting, Fall, 2013  
Uris Auditorium  
TR, 1:25-2:40

**SYLLABUS**

**Text:** J. M. Wolfe et al, *Sensation & Perception*  
2013, 3rd ed., Sutherland, MA: Sinauer  
**Office Hours:** (in Uris Hall) & email  
J. Cutting, 274, M 9:45-11:15, jec7  

**Course Website:** through Blackboard  
Ayse Candan, 223, T 11-1 ac885  
**Extra credit:** SONA  
Marcella Fernandez, B102, TR 5-6 mf463  
Julia Ying, B59, F 1-3 jry26

**Goals:** To understand how our sensory systems sculpt our experience of the world around us.  
To understand how our senses differ and in what ways they 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 life spans.  
And to begin to come to grips with the duality of having both minds and brains.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lecture number and topic</th>
<th>Reading assignment</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>1. Doctrine of the specific qualities of nerves.</td>
<td>no reading assignment.</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>2. Two metaphors for cognitive neuroscience.</td>
<td>Chapter 1: 3-29. Introduction.</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>3. Two psychophysical phenomena.</td>
<td>no reading assignment.</td>
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<td>[Rosh Hashanah]</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>5. Olfaction.</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>9. Haptics, posture, and movement.</td>
<td>no reading assignment.</td>
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<td>11. FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION,</td>
<td>Question answering session to be arranged, M 2 Oct. No makeups</td>
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6 T 8 Oct: 12. Sounds, the ear, and deafness.
    Chapter 10: 275-301: Hearing in the environment.
R 10 Oct: 13. Speech perception. [1st prelims handed back at end of class]

7 T 15 Oct: Fall Break
    Chapter 2: 31-53. The first steps in vision.

    no reading assignment.
    Chapter 3: 55-83. Spatial vision.

    no reading assignment
R 31 Oct: 18. Acuity reconsidered
    Chapter 4: 85-115. Perceiving and recognizing objects. [review Chap 1: 15-17]

10 T 5 Nov: 19. M.C. Escher and the perception of form.
    no reading assignment.
    Chapter 5: 117-147. The perception of color.

    no reading assignment.
R 14 Nov: 22. SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION. material since 1st prelim.
    Question answering session to be arranged, W 13 Nov. No makeups

    Chapter 6: 149-185. Space perception and binocular vision.
    Chapter 8: 221-241. Motion perception.

13 T 26 Nov: 25. Perception of faces. [2nd prelims handed back with provisional final]
R 28 Nov: Thanksgiving recess

    no reading assignment.
R 5 Dec: 27. The common sensibles and sensory substitution.
    no reading assignment

W 18 Dec: FINAL EXAM. 9:00 – 11:30 AM. Comprehensive.
    Question answering session to be arranged, T 17 Dec. 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.

Students registered with a physician’s statement and needing extra time on exams should contact me early in the course so that accommodations can be planned.

**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 as part of their education in experimental psychology. 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. Experimental sign-ups are through SONA, our new website.