

Sensation and Perception
EXP 4990
Spring 2005

Instructor: James E. Arruda, Ph.D.

Office Location: Building 41; Room 232

Office Phone: 850-474-2361

e-mail: jarruda@uwf.edu

Office Hours: Fort Walton Beach: M 7:25 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.;
Pensacola: TR; 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.;
Pensacola: TR 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.;
Pensacola: W 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; or by appointment

Class Location: Building 3; Room 367

Class Day and Time: M; 4:30 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.

Required Text: Goldstein, Bruce E. (2002). Sensation and Perception (6th ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Description of Course and Course Objectives

Sensation and Perception was designed to give you an in-depth understanding of how we, as humans, sense and perceive the world. To this end, we will explore neural systems that allow us to see (vision), hear (audition), touch (somatosensation), smell (olfaction), and taste (gustation). Consequently, once you complete this course you will possess a thorough understanding of the visual, auditory, somatosensory, olfactory, and gustatory systems. You will also become familiar with many of the physiological, psychophysical, and cognitive methodologies employed by psychologists in their quest to understand and to predict human perception. Finally, it is my hope that you will begin to use your newly acquired knowledge of sensory and perceptual processes to better understand how the presence of specific environmental energies ultimately affects the human experience and behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of Sensation and Perception, the successful student should be able to:

- identify and demonstrate a basic understanding of the three methodologies commonly used in the study of sensory and perceptual systems, including the physiological, psychophysical, and cognitive approaches;
- identify the basic neuroanatomy associated with the visual, auditory, somatosensory, olfactory, and gustatory systems;
- demonstrate through written means a basic understanding of sensory and perceptual processes as they pertain to human experience and behavior;
- use theories to explain and predict sensory and perceptual processes
- think and read critically;

- integrate the course content to the broader area of Psychology as the scientific study of human behavior.

Prerequisites

A student must first successfully complete PSY 2012, STA 2023, and EXP 3082.

Exams

As noted in your tentative course syllabus, you will be given four in-class exams. Each exam will last no longer than one class period (i.e., 75 minutes) and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions based upon course material covered. Short answer responses should be no longer than four sentences and will require a thorough understanding of course material. Each exam will be graded on a common 0% - 100% scale. Your performance on in-class examinations will make-up 80% of your final course grade. Students who receive a failing grade on an examination are encouraged to meet with me to discuss such work.

Make-up exams are given on an individual basis. In order to qualify for taking a make-up exam you must **a)** notify me within 24 hours of the event, **b)** have a documented, valid reason (i.e., illness, family emergency, etc.), and **c)** schedule the make-up examination at the time of my notification. **Failure to comply with a, b, or c will result in a grade of zero for the examination that was missed—there will be no exceptions!**

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend each regularly scheduled class meeting. Class attendance will be graded on a common 0% to 100% scale, with perfect attendance resulting in class attendance score of 100%. Attendance will be worth 20% of your final course grade.

Expectations for Academic Conduct/Plagiarism Policy—Honor System

As a student of The University of West Florida, it is expected that you abide by the following pledge:

As members of the University of West Florida, we commit ourselves to honesty. As we strive for excellence in performance, integrity—personal and institutional—is our most precious asset. Honesty in our academic work is vital, and we will not knowingly act in ways that erode that integrity. Accordingly, we pledge not to cheat, nor to tolerate cheating, nor to plagiarize the work of others. We pledge to share community resources in ways that are responsible and that comply with established policies of fairness. Cooperation and competition are means to high achievement and are encouraged. Indeed, cooperation is expected unless our directive is to individual performance. We will compete constructively and professionally for the purpose of stimulating high performance standards. Finally, we accept adherence to this set of expectations for academic conduct as a condition of membership in the UWF academic community, as defined in the *UWF Student Handbook*: <http://www.uwf.edu/uwfmmain/stuHandbk/>.

Additional Assistance

Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), dss@uwf.edu, (850) 474-2387. DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

Electronic Submission of Assignments

Students bear sole responsibility for ensuring that papers or assignments submitted electronically are received in a timely manner and in the electronic format(s) specified by me. Students are therefore obliged to have their e-mail client issue a receipt verifying that the document has been received. Students are also strongly advised to retain a copy of the dated submission on a separate disk. I will acknowledge receipt of the assignment if I receive it.

Cell Phone and Pager Use

Out of courtesy for all those participating in the learning experience, all cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering any classroom or laboratory event.

Grading

Because your final course grade will be dependent upon how well you master material presented during lecture, your final grade will be a composite of your four exam grades and your single attendance grade. Multiply each obtained grade (%) by its corresponding weight and sum across each category to calculate your final course grade.

$$\text{Course Grade} = \text{Exam I} \cdot .20 + \text{Exam II} \cdot .20 + \text{Exam III} \cdot .20 + \text{Exam IV} \cdot .20 + \text{Attendance} \cdot .20$$

Your final letter grade will be assigned as follows:

A	$\geq 93\%$
A-	90% to 92%
B+	87% to 89%
B	83% to 86%
B-	80% to 82%
C+	77% to 79%
C	73% to 76%
C-	70% to 72%
D+	67% to 69%
D	60% to 66%
F	$\leq 59\%$

**Tentative Course Syllabus
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Month	Day	Date	Topic	Chapter
January	M	9	Introduction to Perception	1
	M	16	Martin Luther King's Birthday	
	M	23	Receptors and Neural Processing	1, 2
	M	30		2
February	M	6	Examination I	1, 2
	M	13	Lateral Geniculate Nucleus and Striate Cortex	3
	M	20	Higher-Level Visual Processing	4
	M	27	Examination II	3, 4
March	M	6	Perceiving Objects	5
	M	13	Perceiving Color	6
	M	20	Spring Vacation	
	M	27	Perceiving Depth and Size	7
April	M	3	Examination III	5, 6, 7
	M	10	Sound, the Auditory System, and Pitch Perception	10
	M	17	Auditory Localization, Sound Quality, and the Auditory Scene	11
	M	24	The Cutaneous Senses	13
May	M	1	Final Examination (4:30 pm to 7:00 pm)	10, 11, 13