Perception Course Syllabus

Fall 2010

T- Th *** 1:30-2:50 *** ARM 123

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Thursday, free period and by appt.

Course Overview

Why do things look, sound, feel the way they do? What do we know about the true nature of the world by virtue of our sensory experience? How can we measure what we perceive? What can illusions tell us about reality? How do our brains represent our perceptual experience? In Perception, we will answer these and other questions.

Required Readings

1. Wolfe, J. M, Kluender, K. R., & Levi, D. M. (2012) *Sensation and Perception*(Third edition). Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Press. Textbook available at bookstore and most online booksellers. You can also purchase the loose-leaf or eBook available directly from Sinauer at *http://www.sinauer.com/ebooks/wolfe3e/*. Either version of the book is fine to use.

2. Class information. All lectures will be posted as pdfs after class. There is often important information about exams and grades on these slides, so please reference them.

Course Rules

Use your Rutgers Email

When I email the class, I use the list that the Registrar gives me. I can not change this list, and it is your responsibility to either use your Rutgers email account or set up your Rutgers account so that you receive emails in your personal account. If you use some other account, such as imafoolishrutgersstudent@gmail.com, you may not receive my emails, and you will definitely not receive pity from me.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to read and understand rules regarding academic misconduct. Ignorance of these rules will not be accepted as an excuse for academic misconduct. If you are found cheating on exams or plagiarizing on your paper, you will receive a failing grade for the paper and I will report you to the Office of Academic Affairs. Period. I offer no exceptions to this rule, ESPECIALLY ignorance of what plagiarism is. Rutgers maintains a website with specific guidelines concerning academic honesty. You are expected to read and understand all of these rules and the consequences of breaking them: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml

Course Etiquette

No cell phone use during class. This disrupts the course for me, your classmates, and decreases your ability to pay attention in class. If I notice you using your phone in class, I will ask you to stop; if use continues, your attendance / class participation grade will be decreased (see below).

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance and homework:** You are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. You are advised to do so for at least three reasons: (1) You will learn more if you do; (2) Exams will have questions based on class discussions; often, an exam question will be identical to an example used in class; (3) As noted in your course schedule, there will be 12 homework assignments, each worth 15 points. You can drop your two lowest. These assignments will take various forms, some of which are as follows: (1) A series of questions that will be posted on sakai and which you need to answer (also on sakai) before the date listed on your course schedule; (2) An in-class quiz; (3) An in-class collaborative question, where you divide into groups and each group turns in the answers. No make-ups are possible. This is 30% of your grade.

2. **Exams:** There are three exams in this course; two mid-terms and a final exam. The points for each exam are listed at the end of the syllabus, the dates and chapters covered are listed in the course schedule. **There will be no make-up exams given without prior arrangement.** This class is graded on a curve and it is unfair to your fellow students if I allow you an exception.

   Perception is a difficult course, and my goal is to help you understand rather than memorize. To facilitate that goal, you are allowed to bring one 8.5 by 11 sheet of notes to each exam. This must be handwritten, but other than that, there are no limitations. You may write as small as you like, with any colors that you like.

   Each of the two mid-term exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Exam questions will be drawn from course materials, and will be weighted towards subjects and examples that were discussed in class. Each mid-term exam is worth 100 points.

   The final exam for this course is on the last day of class **Thursday, April 26th**. The final will will have some multiple choice questions and some short-answer/essay questions. These questions will be similar to the kinds of essay questions you have had as homework.

   Exams are intentionally difficult, and Perception is a difficult course. I want to know how much you are learning, and the exams themselves are best viewed as learning experiences. Grades are curved (*see grading section below*) at the end of the semester.

Grading

There are 500 points possible in this course. Points are distributed as follows:

Attendance / homework	150 points, 30%
mid-term	100 points, 20%
mid-term	100 points, 20%
Final exam	150 points, 30%

There will almost certainly be a curve. In the past, I have curved the course about 5-10%, so that an 80-85% is about an A. However, the exact curve will depend on overall class performance. Any curve will *only help you.*