

PSY 3336 Sensation and Perception
Fall 2017
Credit hours: 3
Section 1: MWF 8.00 - 8.50 AM
CHSS 220

Instructor: T. C. Sim, Ph.D.
Office: Rm. 308 CHSS
Tel: 294-1507
Office hours: Refer to grading policy.

Required Text: *Sensation and Perception*. (10th ed.) by E. Bruce Goldstein. ISBN-13: 978-1133958499 or equivalent.
(Virtual Lab CD-Rom **NOT** required)

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Please take note that this is a proposed schedule. Any changes in the schedule (especially EXAMS) will be announced in class. If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to get information on any updated changes from classmates. In addition to the scheduled chapters, there will be numerous classroom CD-Rom demonstrations of the various phenomena mentioned in the text.

	Topics	Chapter
Part 1.	Introduction to perception	1
	The Beginnings of Perception	2
	Neural Processing and Perception	3
	The Visual Cortex and Beyond (stop @ p. 83)	4

FIRST EXAM Sep 22

Part 2	Higher Level Visual Processing (start p.83)	4
	Perceiving Objects and Scenes	5
	Visual Attention	6
	Perceiving Motion	8

SECOND EXAM Oct 20

Part 3	Perceiving color	9
	Perceiving depth and size	10
	Sound, the Auditory System and Pitch Perception	11

THIRD EXAM Nov 17 **Thanksgiving Break Nov 22-24**

Part 4	The chemical senses	15
	The cutaneous senses	14
FINAL EXAM Dec 5 : 8AM		

OBJECTIVES.

The last two decades have seen the fields of sensory and perceptual processes exploding into major subdivisions in psychology and neurophysiology. The five basic senses that we possess, we use incessantly and yet we rarely pause long enough to appreciate the complexities and intricacies that are involved in each sophisticated operation. This course is designed to provide us with an understanding of the processes underlying each of the senses. If we were to believe what we see, we would be turned into the most cynical skeptic in an illusory world. We will come to grips with well-known perceptual problems -- why, for instance, in a geometrical illusion figure, one line looks longer than another of equivalent length. In addition to exploring the human senses, we will also consider the sensory and perceptual processes of some other members of the animal kingdom. By the end of the semester, we may perceive the world differently (perhaps with a sense of awe and wonder, or with a greater sense of skepticism) but we will have gained a better understanding and appreciation of ourselves, and especially of the sensory world in which we exist.

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individuals otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodations"

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Office hours: Mo - Fr: 7.30 - 8.00; MW: 9-10; TuTh: 9.30-11.00 ; 12.30 - 1pm, or by appointment

Class Tests:

There will be at least four (4) major in-class examinations with approximately 50 multiple-choice questions. There may also be essay questions in certain segments of the course and will be announced prior to the start of that segment. **No make-up exam will be given, unless there is a a serious illness or a death in the immediate family. Out-of-town travel on the day of the test will not legitimize your request for a make-up or re-scheduled test. Documentary evidence must be provided, and it is your responsibility to contact me within 24 hours or earlier. All make-up tests will be substantially more rigorous as you will have had extra time to prepare for the test. The last class day will be reserved for make-up tests if any has been approved. No one will be allowed more than one make-up test. No make-ups will be given for class quizzes, and late arrivals will not be given extra time. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Absence from a scheduled exam or class quiz will be equivalent to a score of zero. Students are encouraged to take note of exam schedules for all classes. **All exams must be taken on the scheduled day and no one may ask for a postponement or to take the exam in advance because of multiple exams on the same day (especially for FINALS. Please do not ask for special dispensation because you have to catch an early flight or leave town early for the holidays.** If you have more than one exam on the same day, give yourself ample time to prepare. The final grade will be based on the total points accumulated from class exams, class quizzes if any, and class assignment. **Students who are late on the day of the test will prohibited from taking the test if a classmate has already completed the test and has left the room. Academic dishonesty (including cheating on exams) will result in a F grade for the course and will be referred to the appropriate disciplinary body .**

Final Grade:

The final grade for the course will be based on the points earned by the student divided by the number of available points for all exams and assignments combined. For example, if you have accumulated 360 points out of 400 possible points, you have earned 90% of the available points, and that will be equal to an **A** grade. Students whose scores are close to the next higher grade (1 point away) may be upgraded upon my discretion. This will be based on your participation/contribution in class discussions and your attendance.

A = 90% - 100%	C = 70% - 79%
B = 80% - 89%	D = 60% - 69%

Attendance Policy:

Complete attendance at all class meetings will be expected. **Students who leave class before dismissal of class will be considered as absent.** Students who are persistently tardy (more than 3 occasions) will be considered as absent upon subsequent late arrivals for class. **Students with 6 absences will be dropped a letter grade regardless of your standing. This means that if your course grade is a D, your final course grade will be F.**

6 absences: Highest possible grade B
7 absences: Highest possible grade C
8 absences: Highest possible grade D
9 absences: F

Class Participation:

Students will be expected to read assigned text by class time and to be able to participate in class discussions. The exams will include all topics discussed in class, and the assigned text. **Students who miss class meetings will be responsible for getting**

the lecture notes from their classmates. Do not send me an email requesting for lecture material. If you anticipate missing class for an extended period (out of town emergency, chronic illness, etc.) it will be to your advantage, as well as good courtesy, to keep me informed.

If you have any questions about the class material, please do not hesitate to contact me during my posted office hours. You may also call me at my office outside of the posted hours. If you have any questions concerning any material discussed in class or in the text, I strongly encourage you to raise those concerns in class. If the scheduled time is not convenient, do not hesitate to make an appointment. As long as I am in my office, you are invited to come in and discuss any pertinent issue. I welcome and encourage student visits to my office.

Extra credits:

There will be no opportunity for extra credits. Focus your attention on the course material and prepare well for the tests and quizzes.

Test Scores:

Test scores will be returned in class and students are expected to stay updated on their test performance. Please contact me for your test scores as promptly as possible if you are not present when test scores are returned in class. All efforts will be made to provide you with the feedback on your test performance as timely as possible.

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic exercises both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted as part of the course requirements, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. **Students who are guilty of any of the above offences will be given a failing grade for the course.**

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

Students who, by being habitually tardy (refer also to attendance policy), sleeping in class, or engaging in any form of behavior that is disruptive/belligerent and detrimental to maintaining a classroom environment conducive to learning will be penalized with a letter grade demotion, and may be asked to leave the classroom for the rest of the semester.

All cellular phones must be out of view during class time. **At no time will it be acceptable for a student to answer or make a phone call, or to be text messaging during class-time or a test.** All forms of phone usage are strictly prohibited during a test. If a student has an emergency family situation that makes it crucial to be able to receive an incoming call during class, please notify me prior to the beginning of class.

The use of laptop/notebook computers, or tablets is solely and strictly restricted to note-taking and activities directly related to class material. Students who are surfing the internet for non-class-related activities will be asked to leave the class. Repeated abuse of online access during class-time will result in the suspension of student computer privilege during class.

Please respect the learning environment of your classmates. All comments and questions that are course-related are strongly encouraged, but behaviors, verbal or non-verbal, that espouse and promote disrespect, intolerance, or bigotry, and are detrimental to a safe learning environment are strictly prohibited. Offenders will be removed from class. Please keep in mind that learning is a shared responsibility.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Visitors in the Classroom

At the discretion of the instructor, visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. **NO** visitors will be allowed in class without my prior approval.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>