

PSYC 309
Sensation & Perception
Fall 2011
last updated 8/7/11

Section 001: 10:30- 11:45am Tuesday & Thursday

Location: West 1008

Instructor: Dr. Matt Peterson

Office: 2058 David King Hall
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(please put PYSC 309 in the subject header)

This syllabus is a snapshot and may not be current. For an accurate syllabus, go to:
<http://archlab.gmu.edu/people/mpeters2/Courses/PSY309/psy309.html>

Office Hours: 11-11:50 Wednesdays (tentative) or by appointment.

I fully encourage you to contact me by email if you have any questions about the class.

Text: Sensation & Perception 8th Edition, E. Bruce Goldstein, Thomson-Wadsworth, ISBN-13: 9780495601494

Article: Macknik SL, King M, Randi J, Robbins A, Teller, Thompson J, Martinez-Conde S. (2008). Attention and

awareness in stage magic: turning tricks into research. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*. 9(11), 871-879.

http://smc.neuralcorrelate.com/files/publications/macknik_martinez-conde_nrn08.pdf

Web Page: <http://archlab.gmu.edu/people/mpeters2/Courses/PSY309/psy309.html>

warning: url is case sensitive!

Prerequisites: Psych 300 (C- or better) or permission of instructor.

Students who fail to attend the initial meetings of both lecture and lab sections may be dropped from the course.

Technology Requirement Students are expected to be competent in word processing skills, Internet use, compiling of bibliographies, literature review searches, and downloading pictorial material from computers.

Course Description This course is an introduction to how the brain receives and processes information from the environment. Course deals with sensation -- information must be received in a manner in which our nervous system can respond to it. We will also discuss perception - how the brain interprets information and attaches meaning to it. The study of sensation and perception is one of the earliest areas of study in Psychology.

Attendance Policy: I expect (barring unforeseen circumstances) to see you in class each week. Keep in mind that many of the topics discussed in class are not discussed (or at least not in as much detail) in

your textbook. Although I occasionally put some lecture notes on the web, they will not be complete and will not match the presentation given in class. If you miss a class, it is up to you to learn the missed information. **NO CELL PHONES OR PAGERS.**

GMU Honor Code: George Mason University has a code of Honor that each of you accept by enrolling as a student. My expectation is that all of the work you do for me in this class will be the work of one individual. **Plagiarism or any other violation of the honor code will be taken very seriously and reported to the Honor Committee.** Having said that, I fully encourage you to discuss the readings and topics raised in this class with your fellow students.

Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office."

Exam Make-up Policy: You may take a test after (or before) the scheduled date only if you (a) receive my permission before the day of the test, or (b) have a valid excuse (note from a doctor, judge, sergeant, etc.). Papers will not be accepted beyond the due date.

A+	97+			
A	93-96	Grading	Attendance	3
A-	90-92		Lab	33
B+	87-89		<u>Exams (4)</u>	<u>64</u>
B	83-86			100 points total
B-	80-82			
C+	77-79			
C	73-76			
C-	70-72			
D	60-69			
F	0-59			

Tests (64%): There will be 4 tests, consisting of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answers. Your exam with the lowest score will be dropped.

Lab (33%): The lab will account for 33% of your total grade in Psychology 309. Late assignments will receive partial credit. *This course fulfills all/in part the Writing-Intensive requirement in the Psychology Department.*

Attendance: 3% of your grade will be based on attendance.

Calendar:

Note: The schedule below is tentative, and though I will try to follow it as closely as possible changes may occasionally be necessary. In the event that an exam date is changed, you will be notified at least one week in advance.

Note that September 6th is the last day to add this class and September 30th is the last day to drop this class.

Date	Day	Chapter	Topic
30-Aug	Tues	1	Intro + Psychophysics
1-Sep	Thurs	Appendix, 2	Signal Detection, Physiology
6-Sep	Tues	2	Physiology
8-Sep	Thurs	3	Neurons
13-Sep	Tues	3	Neurons
15-Sep	Thurs	4	Review for Test 1
20-Sep	Tues		TEST1
22-Sep	Thurs	4	Organized Brain
27-Sep	Tues	5	Perceiving Objects
29-Sep	Thurs	5	Perceiving Objects
4-Oct	Tues	6	Visual Attention
6-Oct	Thurs	6	Visual Attention
11-Oct	Tues		COLUMBUS DAY
13-Oct	Thurs	6 + Article	Visual Attention
18-Oct	Tues		Test 2
20-Oct	Thurs	9	Perceiving Movement
25-Oct	Tues	9	Perceiving Movement
27-Oct	Thurs	7	Perceiving Color
1-Nov	Tues	7	Perceiving Color
3-Nov	Thurs	8	Perceiving Depth and Size
8-Nov	Tues	8	Perceiving Depth and Size
10-Nov	Thurs	10 (215-223)	Action / Review
15-Nov	Tues		Test 3
17-Nov	Thurs	11	Sound and Auditory System
22-Nov	Tues	11	Sound and Auditory System
24-Nov	Thurs		THANKSGIVING
29-Nov	Tues	12	Sound Localization
31-Nov	Thurs	12	Sound Localization
1-Dec	Tues	13	Speech Perception
6-Dec	Thurs	13	Speech Perception
8-Dec	Thurs		Test 4