

PSYC 4328-001 Psychology of Perception  
CRN 24916 MW 11:00 am-12:15 pm  
S&T 141



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**Student Hrs** Wednesday 12:30 PM -2:30 PM

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**Course Description:**

*From the catalog:* Analysis of basic perceptual phenomena and theories of perception. Emphasis on sensation, attention, meaning and structural concepts. Prerequisite: PSYC 2301 and PSYC 2388 or BIOL 2411.

This course will provide you with an overview of how people make sense of sensory input – in particular, light and sound. We will compare sensation and perception across a number of domains, including vision, audition, touch, olfaction, and taste, as well as examine some non-human sensory systems such as biosonar and electroreception. Critical to the understanding of sensation and perception is understanding the methodologies and experimental procedures used to examine the issues. This course will explore these methodologies, from traditional measures like psychophysics and signal-detection analysis to newer cognitive neuroscience approaches. We will also discuss disorders and diseases of sensation and perception. Here we will examine peripheral problems (such as damage to the eyes) from central problems (such as damage to the brain) and how these problems differ. We will also consider the myriad ways in which research on sensation and perception has applications in many fields, from medicine to civil engineering to sports.

**Required Course Materials:**

- *Handbook (required):* Wolfe, J. M., et al. (2024). Sensation and Perception 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780197663813
- *Handbook (required):* American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual* (7th ed). Washington, DC: Author.

**Contact Guidelines:**

I make every effort to be available to aid you in your learning process. There are a number of ways in which you can contact me.

- ***Email:*** Only use official university e-mail through Blackboard and include course and section (e.g., PSYC 4328) and full name in subject line. This is my primary and preferred point of contact outside of the classroom. I check my messages regularly on Monday – Friday from 8 to 5. Within that timeframe, I will generally respond within 24 hours. If you don't hear back from me, email again in the event your message went to my Junk email box. On the weekends, I am generally not available by email, but will reply on the subsequent Monday. If you need to contact me, plan ahead. In all communications, be specific. Your correspondence MUST include information as specified above. If you send an email without sufficient information, I likely won't reply. Additionally, begin a new email thread in lieu of responding back to one of my emails if you are beginning a new conversation unrelated to the previous email. Professional language and formatting is expected (i.e., avoid informal correspondence styles like text messaging).
- ***Office:*** I will be available to meet during student hours and by appointments. Students can book appointments in 15 minute increments at [Book time with Dawn Weatherford: Student Meetings - Virtual](#)

**Assessment and Evaluation: \* indicates group work**

Unless otherwise specified, quizzes and exams will be administered from and turned in through Blackboard. No paper copies will be accepted. All work is to be completed independently unless indicated by the \*.

Quizzes

It is helpful for you to review the material as we progress through the course. Also, several studies show that testing your knowledge strengthens your memory more than an equivalent amount of time restudying the information (i.e., the testing effect). In an effort to facilitate your memory, you will take quizzes throughout the semester that tap into both new and previously studied material. After we go over the material in class, you will take a short quiz over each chapter's general concepts (except for the first). **Each quiz will be multiple-choice, open book, and cover general concepts found in the chapter.** Save a university approved excuse, no late quizzes will be accepted. As the schedule shows, you have 13 scheduled quizzes. Therefore, a student can miss three quizzes without affecting their final grade (for which 10 quizzes will count).

Weekly Discussion Participation

All students are expected to have read be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Each week, students will earn points for demonstrating understanding of the course content and engaging with discussion leaders. Discussion participation will be earned by asking and answering, in a way that demonstrates non-redundancy and critical insight, questions posed by fellow classmates, teaching assistant, and professor. **Participation will be earned by answering multiple-choice and open-ended questions during lecture time.** Save a university approved excuse, no late participation will be available. As the schedule shows, you have 13 weeks of classes (not including the midterm week). Therefore, a student can miss one week of participation without affecting their final grade (for which 12 participation experiences will count).

\*Discussion Leadership

In the second week of class, you will rank the top three topics in which you have the most interest. After being grouped with classmates based upon similar interests, each student will be expected to lead article discussions and demonstrations with group members. Discussion leaders will demonstrate a psychological phenomenon, present the article using visual aids, and then prompt discussion with questions. Discussion questions should be provided to the instructor at least one lecture period before the presentation. Rubric will be provided in BlackBoard. All students are encouraged to coordinate and seek feedback from professor or teaching assistant prior to the presentation.

Exams – see Grading table below

Exams will be comprised of a combination of assessment types. As we progress through the course content, questions will be designed to test your abilities to critically evaluate and demonstrate your skills and knowledge. Each test primarily focuses on the material from the class periods that directly preceded it. However, I will treat this class cumulatively as we progress through the materials. As such, any and all materials presented throughout the duration of the course are fair game for the exams. Subsequently, exam points increase as the semester progresses.

<i>Course Component</i>	<i>Point Value</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
<b>Quizzes</b>	10	10	100	10%
<b>Discussion Participation</b>	25	12	300	30%
<b>Discussion Leadership</b>	150	1	150	15%
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	200	1	200	20%
<b>Final Exam</b>	250	1	250	25%
<b>Total</b>			<b>Up to 1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

A: 850 and above B: 849.99-750 C: 749.99 – 650 D: 649.99 – 550 F: below 550

See policies and procedures addendum for more university-wide guidance.

Course Schedule:

Caveat: Although I will do my best to abide by this schedule, some topics may carry over and others may end earlier than expected and we will transition to the next topic in the schedule. Any topic changes will be announced by any one or a combination of lecture, e-mail, and/or Blackboard Announcements.

You are responsible for keeping up with any possible changes to the course schedule.

Week	Date	Topic
1	1/22/2025	Getting a <i>sense</i> of the course
2	1/27/2025	CH 1 Introduction
2	1/29/2025	Instructor-Led Article Discussion
3	2/3/2025	CH 3 Spatial Vision: From Spots to Stripes
3	2/5/2025	CH 3 Article Discussion
4	2/10/2025	CH 4 Perceiving and Recognizing Objects
4	2/12/2025	CH 4 Article Discussion
5	2/17/2025	CH 5 The Perception of Color
5	2/19/2025	CH 5 Article Discussion
6	2/24/2025	CH 6 Space Perception and Binocular Vision
6	2/26/2025	CH 6 Article Discussion
7	3/3/2025	MIDTERM
7	3/5/2025	MIDTERM
	3/10/2025	Spring Break
	3/12/2025	Spring Break
8	3/17/2025	CH 7 Attention and Scene Perception
8	3/19/2025	CH 7 Article Discussion
9	3/24/2025	CH 8 Visual Motion Perception
9	3/26/2025	CH 8 Article Discussion
10	3/31/2025	CH 10 Hearing in the Environment
10	4/2/2025	CH 10 Article Discussion
11	4/7/2025	CH 12 Vestibular Sensation
11	4/9/2025	CH 12 Article Discussion
12	4/14/2025	CH 13 Touch
12	4/16/2025	CH 13 Article Discussion
13	4/21/2025	CH 14 Olfaction
13	4/23/2025	CH 14 Article Discussion
14	4/28/2025	CH 15 Taste
14	4/30/2025	CH 15 Article Discussion
15	5/5/2025	Final
		Finals period as designated by the academic calendar