

PSYCHOLOGY 286:
SENSATION AND PERCEPTION
SPRING 2018
SYLLABUS

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<http://swanpsych.com/contact-about-me/>

My Website: www.swanpsych.com

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

MEETING:

When: MWF 9:00 – 9:50 AM

Where: Burgess Hall 103

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS:

Goldstein, E. B. (2017). *Sensation & Perception* (10th Ed). Cengage Learning.

COURSE WEBSITE:

All the course announcements, quizzes, grades, this syllabus, and other resources will be available through the course portal on Brightspace. I will try my best to make the Powerpoint slides used for the lectures available online BEFORE each lecture. However, sometimes life will happen and they might not make it until afterward.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Course catalog description: Study of sensory and perceptual processes as a way of understanding experience in a physical environment. Emphasis on visual and auditory perception.

Another take: We will examine how humans (and in some cases, other animals) sense and perceive the world around us. First, we will consider the philosophical questions that humans have long posed about perception, and study the methods and techniques scientists use to try to answer them. We will study the sensory pathways, fundamental perceptual processing, and higher-level meaning-making. We will cover the orienting senses, skin senses, chemical senses (smell and taste), audition, vision, and the perception of time. We will consider sensation and perception from several perspectives: physiological, psychophysical, ecological, motivational, and computational. This diversity of viewpoints also allows us to look at multi-sensory perceptual processes.

CLASS FORMAT:

The course will consist of lectures, demonstrations/activities, videos, and class discussion. Reading assignments should be completed before the chapter is discussed in class.

INTENDED LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Learn the history and methods used in the science of sensation and perception.
- Learn the structure of the major sensory systems.
- Learn the transduction and transmission processes for the major sensory systems.
- Learn how sensory information is perceived and processed.

- Learn how perceptual information helps us in our lives.
- Learn additional applications of sensation and perception information.
- Learn about the changes to sensation and perception over the lifecycle.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Four (4) In-Class Quizzes	40% (10% each)	Various Dates: Listed on Course Schedule
Yellow Submarine Paper	20%	DUE: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 by 9 AM
Perceptual Disorders Paper	20%	DUE: Friday, April 27, 2018 by 8 AM
Auto-graded Reading Checks	10%	Various Dates
In-class Participation	10%	Various Dates

GRADING SCALE:

The grading scale I will use for the course is the following:

≥ 93%	A	≥ 80% and < 83%	B-	≥ 67% and < 70%	D+
≥ 90% and < 93%	A-	≥ 77% and < 80%	C+	≥ 63% and < 67%	D
≥ 87% and < 90%	B+	≥ 73% and < 77%	C	≥ 60% and < 63%	D-
≥ 83% and < 87%	B	≥ 70% and < 73%	C-	< 60%	F

NOTE: Grades will not be changed for any reason, except for clerical errors!

A. QUIZZES:

- The in-class Quizzes (3 “Units” & Final) consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions and are based on both the lectures and text readings. Each Quiz (including the Final) will only cover material from the unit. Although none of the Quizzes are cumulative, new material tends to build upon previous material. ANY material covered in the lectures or reading may appear on the Quiz, but I will provide a study guide to focus studying. Some of the material in the readings will not be covered in the lecture and some of the material in the lecture will not be covered in the readings. **You are responsible for both!**
- Quizzes must be taken on the date scheduled. Vacation is not a valid excuse, nor is an exam scheduled at the same time. If you must miss a Quiz due to some emergency, then you can make it up by taking an essay exam. A doctor’s note or some other formal verification of absence is required to make up a Quiz. This is the **ONLY** condition under which I will give a make-up. All make-up Quizzes are **ESSAY** in format and must be taken during a make-up period agreed upon by you and me.
- No use of notes is allowed for any Quiz. Please be aware that cheating on a Quiz will result in a grade of 0 for the exam and reporting of the incident to the Division Chair and Provost. Cheating includes use of notes, books, cell phones, or copying from someone else’s Quiz.

B. YELLOW SUBMARINE PAPER:

- There will be a short paper (about 2-3 pages), focusing on a scene of your choice from the cinematic masterpiece, *Yellow Submarine*. We’ll watch the film in class. You should choose a scene that you found to be especially striking from a perceptual framework. Describe the scene, and proceed to explain what made that scene visually interesting. In doing so, you should demonstrate your understanding of visual processing—for instance, depth cues, opponent colors, or movement, and show how they contribute to the psychedelic appearance of the film.
- **This assignment is due about a week after viewing the film, on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 by 9 AM.**

C. PERCEPTUAL DISORDERS PAPER:

- A second small paper you will write will explore a topic in perceptual disorders, which is a clinical/neuropsych approach to the topic of sensation and perception. There are two options for this paper: (1) a standard literature review of a perceptual disorder in APA format, or (2) an exploratory paper, which is a more creative option, and is to be written as a “day in the life”, or diary, from the perspective of a person with the perceptual disorder. Both require at least 3 sources!
- Additional/detailed information is available on BS.
- Smaller assignments will be due prior to the final paper to make sure you’re on the right track. These will be credit/no credit grades for low stakes grading. No late assignments will be accepted for these smaller checkpoint assignments!
- **This will be due on the day of your final quiz by 8 AM: Friday, April 27, 2018.**

D. READING CHECKS:

- There will be an online, self-graded check on the readings on Brightspace. These will be multiple choice, and 5 questions each. Since these checks are low-stakes and are only meant to help you digest the material for the in-class Unit Quizzes, you will have 2 attempts for each one. The attempt that achieves the highest score will be recorded. Don’t fret too much about these checks; just try your best—they are meant to prepare you for the in-classes Unit Quizzes so those aren’t too shocking or overwhelming. Though you can use your textbooks on these reading checks (no time limit), try your best to answer the questions without it, since you won’t have the texts on the in-class Unit Quizzes!

E. PARTICIPATION GRADE:

- Small assignments will be given during class, and sometimes in the beginning, on random days throughout the semester. Points will be given out for completing the assignments that will count toward your participation grade. It is highly recommended that you arrive to class on time in order to complete these assignments.

COURSE POLICIES

1. GETTING INFORMATION:

- **EMAIL PROTIP:** I use email for almost all communications/announcements. If you do not check your Eureka email often, forward it to an address you do check. **YAHOO ADDRESSES GET SENT TO MY SPAM FOLDER.** The best way to contact me is always via email. If you cannot come to office hours and/or decide to send an email, be sure to use the following format so that I can help you:

To:
Subject Line: “PSY 286: (insert your topic here)”
From: your full address

Dear (insert name of person you are contacting here),

Hello, my name is (your full name here) and I am a student taking PSY 286/Sensation & Perception. I have a question regarding (insert your question here).

*(Considerate closing of your choosing),
Your full name*

A word of caution: I will do my best to reply within 48 hours. Depending on the nature (and popularity) of your question, my answer may be direct OR posted as a general class announcement on Brightspace. Please hold off on resending a message until 48 hours have passed. Finally, I may not respond to emails between the hours of 8 PM and 8 AM, so please keep this in mind when deciding whether to resend the message.

- **OFFICE HOURS:** I have plenty of office hours. I generally have an open-door policy: if the door's open, please feel free to bug me. You can check my website for these times rather than emailing me to ask me if I'll be there. You might want to email me to let me know you're coming, but walk-ins are welcome. I will specify whether there are circumstances that will cut into my office time as needed.

2. LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP POLICY:

- If participation in university-sponsored events (e.g., athletics) or observance of a religious holiday or other sanctioned event prevents your attendance, you must contact me prior to the relevant date, and you must have any appropriate documentation. If an assignment is due on that date, arrangements must be made to complete the assignment ahead of time, if possible.
- Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due at the beginning of class (unless otherwise noted for electronic assignment submissions). Late assignments will only be accepted in the case of extraordinary circumstances and appropriate documentation, and may involve point/percentage deductions (standard penalty is 10%/24-hr period). Please alert me to these extraordinary circumstances by email within 24 hours of the missed class, and we will set up a time to discuss these on a case-by-case basis.
- Without appropriate circumstances and documentation, early Quizzes or Quiz make-ups will not be granted.
- **BENEFIT OF DOUBT POLICY:** However, I recognize that sometimes life happens; therefore, I have built some flexibility into the course to allow for illness, other obligations, and bad days.
 - i. First, on Quizzes, extra credit will be offered from one Quiz to the next if there is a 10% improvement. For example, if Quiz 1 receives a 60%, a 70% or higher on Quiz 2 will result in an additional percentage increase of extra credit. If you miss a Quiz AND notified me appropriately, and cannot make-up the Quiz prior to the next Quiz, I will count your next Quiz score twice (so no zeroes are given out).
 - ii. In addition, your lowest Reading Check and one Participation assignment will be dropped from your final category computation. You will not be able to make these up—they are dropped for whatever reason you missed, no questions asked!

3. GRADE DISPUTE POLICY:

- If you disagree about how your term paper was graded, you must dispute the issue *in writing* (not email). Write a paragraph about why you think your attempt was correct/sufficient and turn it (with the original assignment) in to the instructor at the lecture following the return of the relevant assignment. Only reasonable and well-justified complaints will be considered, and all decisions are final. Please note that if you submit a complaint, the instructor will re-grade the entire assignment, and your grade could increase, decrease, or remain the same. **This policy does not apply to final course grades.**

4. CLASS ETIQUETTE:

- **Please do not use your cell phones during class.** I would prefer them to be put on silent or off. If your cell phone goes off during class or an exam, please silence it immediately; do not let it ring through. I will remind everyone prior to exams to make sure their phones are turned off. Please refrain from text messaging during class. I know you think you're being subtle; I assure you that I can see you texting.

- Please do not leave the class partway through unless it is an emergency; it is very disruptive. If you must leave, please sit in the back and at the edge of an aisle so as to not disrupt your fellow classmates.
- Please have respect for the class, your peers, and yourselves by being fully present in the class. Please avoid anything not relevant to the class, such as sleeping, surfing the Internet, or doing homework for other classes.
- **LATENESS:** Please try to arrive a few minutes before the start of lecture. We will begin promptly at 9:00 AM, and it can be distracting to me and to your peers if you arrive late. I will try not to keep you late.

5. **LAPTOP & TABLET POLICY:**

- a. Research indicates that taking notes by hand results in significantly better retention of conceptual information than taking notes on a laptop (see Mueller & Oppenheimer, 2014), even when students are engaged in the material (i.e., are not also checking their email or Facebook feed).
- b. Further, laptop use can be distracting in various ways to the entire class. Because my goal is to maximize the likelihood of a favorable learning environment, **I strongly recommend that you not use laptops in class.**
- c. However, laptops will be permitted on a probationary basis; should the use of laptops be taken advantage of or prove distracting to other students, I will revisit this policy then.

6. **ATTENDANCE:**

- Students who take notes, ask questions, respond to questions, and come to office hours are typically the ones who succeed in this class.
- Though attendance is not required by College policy, I strongly recommend you attend class prepared and present. As such, you will not be penalized in your grade for missing a class. However, I WILL REWARD folks who arrive to class on time and attend each class, most likely with some helpful exam advice, if you catch my drift. If you do happen to miss a class, that's OK, but you will be responsible for *all* material covered in lecture, some of which will not be covered by the textbooks. If you know about an absence beforehand, please shoot me and email to let me know.

ADDITIONAL COURSE AND COLLEGE INFORMATION

ACCESSIBILITY (ADA) STATEMENT:

The Learning Center, located on the first floor of Alumni Hall, provides academic services to all Eureka College students. Consultations are available in the areas of math and writing. Study groups, individual academic counseling, and course specific tutoring are also available by contacting Jason Zimmerman at x6520 or jzimmerman@eureka.edu.

Any Eureka College student with a disability or other special circumstances requiring accommodations or other consideration in order to successfully complete the requirements of this course is requested to identify himself/herself to the instructor and discuss the matter privately. This disclosure should be made within the first week of the course so proper accommodations can be made.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Eureka College strives to instill individual responsibility and integrity in its students, and expects its students to behave with integrity throughout their time at the College. Any giving or receiving of unpermitted aid on tests or assignments is considered cheating. If a student is uncertain about how to document sources or incorporate materials into a paper, it is his or her responsibility to seek help by speaking to the faculty member, another professor, or a Writing Center tutor. The College's Academic Dishonesty policy is outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic dishonesty constitutes a major breach of the trust that exists between the instructor and the student. It includes passing off another's ideas as one's own, any attempt to gain information about a test or exam prior to the test or exam date without the instructor's consent, and providing unauthorized assistance on a test, exam, paper, or other assignment to another student. Cheating on a test, exam, quiz, paper, or other assignment will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Further dishonesty will result in failing the course. Students who fail for academic dishonesty will not have the option of withdrawing from the course. If you are in doubt about what plagiarism means, or about how to appropriately document sources in your work, please contact me; I will be happy to help.

COUNSELING SERVICES:

Provided by Tazwood Center for Wellness, seeing a professional counselor as a Eureka College student is easy and free. Whatever is on your mind, don't be afraid to talk to someone.

Tazwood Center for Wellness visits campus twice a week for on campus counseling appointments. Each student receives 6 free sessions per semester.

Tazwood Center for Wellness
3248 Vandever Ave. Pekin, IL 61554
309-437-5522 (Phone)
309-347-1148 (Emergency Response Services)

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS:

The Instructor reserves the right to make policy and course changes to the syllabus at any time with advance notice to students.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Schedule is subject to change depending on the progress of the course or at the instructor's discretion.

Week	Day	Date	Lecture	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	M	1/8	----	NO CLASS – OPENING WEEK	
	W	1/10	1	Course Introduction and Requirements	
	F	1/12	2	Introduction to Perception	Ch 1
2	M	1/15	----	NO CLASS – MLK JR. DAY; CAMPUS SERVICE DAY	
	W	1/17	3	Beginnings of Perceptual Process I	Ch 2
	F	1/19	4	Beginnings of Perceptual Process II	
3	M	1/22	5	Neural Processing I	Ch 3
	W	1/24	6	Neural Processing II	
	F	1/26	7	Neural Processing III	
4	M	1/29	8	Cortical Organization I	Ch 4
	W	1/31	9	Cortical Organization II	
	F	2/2	----	QUIZ 1	
5	M	2/5	10	Perceiving Objects & Scenes I	Ch 5
	W	2/7	11	Perceiving Objects & Scenes II	
	F	2/9	12	Visual Attention I	Ch 6
6	M	2/12	13	Visual Attention II	
	W	2/14	14	Taking Action I	Ch 7
	F	2/16	15	Taking Action II	
7	M	2/19	16	Perceiving Motion I	Ch 8
	W	2/21	17	Perceiving Motion II	
	F	2/23	----	QUIZ 2	
8	M	2/26	18	Perceiving Color I	Ch 9
	W	2/28	19	Perceiving Color II	
	F	3/2	20	Perceiving Color III	
9	M	3/5	----	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
	W	3/7	----	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
	F	3/9	----	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
10	M	3/12	21	Perceiving Depth & Size I	Ch 10
	W	3/14	22	Perceiving Depth & Size II	
	F	3/16	23	Film: <i>Yellow Submarine</i>	
11	M	3/19	24	Film: <i>Yellow Submarine</i>	
	W	3/21	25	Hearing I	Ch 11
	F	3/23	26	Hearing II	
12	M	3/26	27	Hearing III	
	W	3/28	----	QUIZ 3	
	F	3/30	----	NO CLASS – GOOD FRIDAY	
13	M	4/2	----	NO CLASS – EASTER MONDAY	
	W	4/4	28	Hearing: Location	Ch 12

	F	4/6	29	Hearing: Organization	Ch 12
14	M	4/9	30	Speech Perception I	Ch 13
	W	4/11	31	Speech Perception II	
	F	4/13	----	NO CLASS – DR. SWAN @ MPA	
15	M	4/16	32	Cutaneous Senses	Ch 14
	W	4/18	33	Pain Perception	Ch 14
	F	4/20	34	Chemical Senses: Gustation & Olfaction	Ch 15
16	M	4/23	35	Chemical Senses: Flavor	Ch 15
	W	4/25	36	<i>Evals/Reflection/Review Day</i>	
F	F	4/27	----	FINAL QUIZ (8:00 AM – 10:00 AM)	