

# Sensation and Perception Lab

01:830:302:01 Fall 2011

Busch Psychology Building, Rm 105

Wednesday 8:40 AM – 11:40 AM

**Instructor:** Steven Cholewiak

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**Office Hours:** By appointment, Busch Psychology Building, Rm 162

## **General goals for the course:**

1. To provide an opportunity to experience perceptual phenomena first hand.
2. To learn how to design, conduct, analyze, and write-up experiments.
3. To learn how to use software tools to analyze and plot data.

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class PSYCH-301 (Sensation & Perception). The conceptual and theoretical basis for the lab's exercises and demonstrations are developed in lecture. For this reason, concurrent or past registration in PSYCH-301 is required.

## **Grading:**

Your final grade will be based on three things:

1. Attendance and participation in the weekly lab
2. Weekly lab assignments
3. An original project report and presentation completed during the last several class meetings

Please note that every homework assignment will count towards your final grade. Attendance and homeworks are mandatory, so unexcused absences and late/unsubmitted homeworks will affect your grade in the class. There are no tests or quizzes planned for this class. The final grades for this course will not be curved or scaled.

The criteria for grading your work through the course of the semester will be:

- Effort and class participation
- Demonstration of progress in understanding and using the provided software tools
- Clarity and format of graphs
- Clarity and format of writing
- Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual concepts introduced in the labs

### **Weekly Assignments:**

We will be working on labs at each class meeting. After each lab is completed (data collection and analysis), you will be assigned a write-up of the lab that is due the following Sunday evening at 11:55 PM. If the lab runs less than the allotted time, then you are encouraged to use the full class period to complete the assignment for that week. The weekly write-ups will often consist of brief (1-3 page) reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests, etc.), results and/or conclusions.

The weekly assignments will be graded on the pass/fail scale:

- P+: Excellent work, very minor issues, if any
- P: Good work, some content and/or formatting issues
- P-: Minor problems, needs improvement
- F: Major problems, fail, requires redo

Scores on the weekly assignments will be used to adjust the grade given on the final project. A half letter grade will be added for 3 P+'s accumulated during the semester. A half letter grade will be subtracted for 3 P-'s accumulated during the semester. If an F is not redone, it will also cause a half letter grade deduction.

- 3 × P+'s: Add one-half letter grade
- P: No points added or deducted
- 3 × P-'s: Deduct one-half letter grade
- F: Deduct one-half letter grade if left uncorrected

Students who hand in the assignment on time and receive a failing grade will be given the option of handing in one revised version within one week of receipt of the graded assignment. The revised report will then be graded. No revisions of failed assignments will be accepted after this one-week timeframe, and no subsequent revisions will be accepted after the first revision, although I will be available to meet with you to discuss the material and your performance.

*All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by the individual student unless otherwise noted.* Collaborative reports will be given an F grade (see Academic Dishonesty Policy below).

### **Final Project:**

The final project is the writing of a full laboratory report based on an original experiment carried out in class during the final weeks of the semester. These reports will be given a letter grade (A, B+, B, C+, C, D, F).

### **Attendance Policy:**

If you miss a lab for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness) you must bring an official excuse note (e.g., a doctor's note). This will excuse you from performing that part of the assignment. If you need to miss a class for a planned absence in the future (e.g., a religious holiday), please contact me ([scholewi@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:scholewi@rci.rutgers.edu)) as soon as possible so that we can schedule a make-up. Missed assignments that are not excused will be given a failing grade and will therefore deduct one-half letter grade from your final grade.

**You must arrive on time to class.** Excessive lateness prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the labs. Keep in mind that I record attendance and note tardy individuals. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will not be allowed to participate and your tardiness will be counted as an unexcused absence.

### **Schedule of Labs:**

The following is a rough schedule of the course. I will email lab manuals approximately 1 week before the class. **Make sure to print them out!** Changes and amendments may be made as the course progresses.

September 7	<b>NO LAB</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Wednesday classes (see <a href="http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml">http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml</a> )
September 14	Introduction to the course, Lab 1: Perception of line length (Graphs & Tables)
September 21	Lab 2: Pitch discrimination (Method, Results)
September 28	Lab 3: Center of gravity (Introduction)
October 5	Lab 4: Prism adaptation (Method)
October 12	Lab 5: Extrapolation of motion (Results)
October 19	Lab 6: Attention shift (Discussion)
October 26	Lab 7: Crowding (Results)
November 2	Lab 8: P-illusion (Title Page, Abstract, and Discussion)
November 9	Lab 9: Design final project, abstract, title
November 16	Data collection for final projects
<b>MONDAY,</b> November 21	Data analysis for final projects, <b>CHANGE IN CLASS DESIGNATION</b> (see <a href="http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml">http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml</a> )
November 23	<b>NO LAB</b> – Thanksgiving Recess (class changed to Monday, November 21)
November 30	Turn in final projects, final presentation
December 7	Reserved for course adjustments and changes to syllabus
Final Exam	<b>NO LAB</b>

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

In science, there is absolutely no room for fraud or untruth. Our job as scientists is to search out facts, not just for ourselves but for society as a whole. Consequently, you should be very clear that, just as I expect you to learn about the topic matter, I also expect you to learn about scientific honesty. In the work that you present to me, falsifying, plagiarism, or copying without attribution will not be tolerated. Intentional ethical violations will result in failure for the material in question. Please check the school guidelines for further clarification of violations:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Due to recent issues with students sharing their assignments, homeworks and the final lab report may be processed using Turnitin, a service that processes uploaded documents to determine if material was plagiarized. The Turnitin reports will be viewable by you on Sakai, but please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

**All course materials can be found on <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> after you log in. It is expected that you print out ALL materials before class. The printer in the classroom is for printing out SPSS output and data-related materials ONLY.**

**If you decide to stay enrolled in this class after receiving this syllabus, I will assume you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.**