# Sensation and Perception Lab

**01:830:302:01 Fall 2010**
**Busch Psychology Building, Rm 105**
**Monday 3:20 PM – 6:20 PM**

**Instructor**: Steven Cholewiak
**E-mail**: scholewi@rci.rutgers.edu
**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 grade.   There are no tests or quizzes planned for this class.   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 software tools
- Clarity of graphs
- Clarity 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 Friday.  Write-ups will often consist of brief (1-2 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
> P: Good work, pass
> P-: Minor problems, needs improvement
> F: Major problems, fail, requires redo

Scores on these 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.

> $3 \times$ P+'s: Add one-half letter grade
> P: No points added or deducted
> $3 \times$ 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 a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week timefame, 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](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. 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.

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|---|---|
| September 8 | **NO LAB –** 1st day of Monday classes (see http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml) |
| September 13 | Introduction to the course, Lab 1: Perception of line length (Graphs & Tables) |
| September 20 | Lab 2: Pitch discrimination (Method, Results) |
| September 27 | Lab 3: Center of gravity (Introduction) |
| October 4 | Lab 4: Prism Adaptation (Method) |
| October 11 | Lab 5: Extrapolation of Motion (Results) |
| October 18 | Lab 6: Attention Shift (Discussion) |
| October 25 | Lab 7: Crowding (Results) |
| November 1 | Lab 8: P-illusion (Title Page, Abstract, and Discussion) |
| November 8 | **NO LAB** – Cancelled |
| November 15 | Lab 9: Design final project, abstract, title |
| November 22 | **NO LAB** – Wednesday Classes, see http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml |
| November 29 | Data collection for final projects |
| December 6 | Data analysis for final projects |
| December 13 | Turn in final projects, final presentation |
| Final Exam | **NO LAB** |

## 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

**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.**