

PSY 361: Perception – Spring 2017

Mario Fifić

PSY 361 -01 M/W 8:30am-11:50am ASH 1310

Instructor

Mario Fific
2139 Au Sable Hall
Phone: 331-5061
Email: fificm@gvsu.edu

Office hours:

M/W 11:50am-12:30pm

Textbook

Sensation and Perception, 10th Edition. E. Bruce Goldstein, James R. Brockmole
ISBN-10:130558029X
ISBN-13: 9781305580299
Earlier editions.

Readings of specific research articles will be announced in class.

Course Overview

The goal of this course is to help students explore questions concerning the way the world (the physical environment and the people inhabiting in it) appears to the perceiving subject from a scientific and naturalistic perspective. Important classic and contemporary studies will be introduced with a theoretical outlook that integrates scientific methodology and philosophical thinking.

Throughout this course, I will encourage independent thinking and critical questioning and discussion. Please feel free to ask questions at any time during class about the lectures and the text. Be sure to read the assigned chapters and supplementary reading material before coming to class. All students are strongly encouraged to make use of my office hours.

Prerequisite: Psychology 101

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, I expect that you will:

- 1) have a basic knowledge of perception, including
 - the scope and limitation of perception
 - the psychological and biological facts crucial for understanding perception
 - the different approaches to a scientific understanding of perception
- 2) have an understanding of the problems about perception that remain challenging
- 3) be able to inform your world views with what you learned about perception

General Information

Class attendance. It is expected that you inform the instructor about your absence in class in time by email.

Special needs. If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical or other disability, please contact me or the Office of Academic Support (OAS) at 331-2490.

Plagiarism. “Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one’s own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodical, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.” (GVSU, Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog 2004-2005, p. 91). **Plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the course.**

Blackboard. The syllabus, announcements, outside readings, assignments, and grades will be posted on Blackboard. If additional materials are placed elsewhere, e.g. electronic library reserves, I will provide links. I will attempt to make the lecture materials, labs, and other materials available prior to each class, although I cannot guarantee this.

Communication. The instructor will communicate all class announcements via Blackboard email. You are expected to check your email regularly. The instructor will send an announcement with this syllabus prior to the first day of class. If it is the first day of class and you haven’t received this email yet, it is your responsibility to figure out why and make sure that you receive future emailed announcements. It is strongly suggested that you keep

a record or file of all emails sent by the instructor because you are responsible for all information sent in such emails.

Laptop Policy. Laptop computers are permitted for taking notes. You should not surf the web, edit facebook pages, twitter, email or work on other projects. Such activities will distract you, your peers, and the instructor. You will be asked to put your computer away or leave the class if you do not use it in accordance with this policy.

Required computer access. Many assignments will require access to the internet and Microsoft Word. Although we will begin some assignments in class, you should make sure you will have access to these applications for at least four hours per week outside of class, either on the GVSU campus or elsewhere. If you have little experience/skill with Microsoft Word, you may need to devote substantially more time to this.

Assessment

Your final grade will be based on the total points accumulated in following categories:

Exams:

There will be two examinations----one mid-term exam and one final exam. The exam will not be cumulative. Each exam will consist of about 100 multiple-choice questions plus one or two short-answer questions. Most questions of the exams are covered in **the lectures, and some are from the textbook, the supplementary readings, the in-class and homework assignments, and the videos shown in class.**

Paper:

You are required to select a question about perception that interests you and try to answer the question by reviewing at least seven **research articles** published on peer-reviewed sources. You are expected to write a paper of 7-9 pages to describe the empirical findings reported in the article, critically evaluate how well these studies have addressed the question by applying what you have learned in class about perception, and propose a new study to answer the initial question. A more detailed instruction for the paper will be posted on the Blackboard.

In-Class work or Homework:

These will be scheduled during the regular class time throughout the semester. They are designed to test your understanding of the material recently presented in class. They include definition questions, problem-solving questions and short essays. About 50% of these will be in-class writing. If you miss a class, you may not be able to make up for the work assigned during the class period you missed.

Additional notes on submissions:

Please keep a copy of each of your typed assignment. All submissions and tests are turned in by the Assignment Manager through Blackboard. E-mail attachment will NOT be

accepted. Late work will be marked down 50% and will not be accepted one week after its due date (no excuse whatsoever will be accepted).

(Note: having late submission is operationally defined as submitting work at least 1 second after the deadline).

Attendance

Because much of the course material is communicated through lectures only, class attendance is very important. There has been a strong correlation between class attendance and the final grade for this class.

Grading Scale

	<u>Points</u>
Midterm exam	100
Final exam	100
Paper	50
Quiz/Assignments	150
In class project	50
<u>Total</u>	450

Your total points will be converted to scores in percentage. Your final letter grade will then be determined according to the following percentage scale:

Grade Distribution

A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93
B+	88 - 89%
B	84 - 87%
B-	80 - 83%
C+	78 - 79%
C	74 - 77%
C-	70 - 73%
D+	67 - 69%
D	60 - 66%
F	59% and lower

Tentative Semester Schedule

Date	Lecture and Discussion Topics	Reminder
5/8	Course overview; Introduction to perception (ch. 1)	
5/10	The beginning of the perceptual process (ch. 2)	HW due
5/15	Neural Processing (ch. 3)	HW due
5/17	Cortical Organization & Perceiving Objects and Scenes (ch. 4 & ch. 5)	HW due
5/22	Visual attention & Taking Action (ch. 6 & 7)	HW due
5/24	Perceiving Color & Motion (ch. 8 & ch. 9)	HW due
5/29	Midterm Exam	HW due
5/31	Perceiving Depth & Size(ch. 10)	HW due
6/5	Hearing (ch. 11 & ch. 12)	HW due
6/7	Speech (ch. 13)	HW due
6/12	The Cutaneous Senses (ch. 14)	HW due
6/14	Chemical senses (ch. 15)	HW due/Paper due
6/19	Final Exam	

- This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please check Blackboard for updates.

Disclaimer: *This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.*