

Perception (PSY 361)

Winter 2020

Thursday 6:00 – 8:50, (ASH 2302)

Instructor:

Jerry Fisher

Office hours: 5:00 - 6:00pm Thursdays in ASH 2302

Email: fisherj@gvsu.edu

Text:

Sensation and Perception by Steven Yantis & Richard A. Abrams

- 1st or 2nd addition is acceptable

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- 1) describe basic issues of perception, including
 - the scope and limitation of perception
 - the philosophical issues underpinning modern scientific studies on perception
 - the psychological and biological facts crucial for understanding perception
 - the different approaches to a scientific understanding of perception
- 2) explain the problems about perception that are unresolved by research and are still being investigated by scientists.
- 3) inform their world views with what is scientifically known or knowable about perception

Assignments and Grading:

Grades for this course are based on exams (60%), quizzes (20%), and homework assignments (20%). An additional +3% of your final grade can be earned through extra credit.

There will be three exams, each of which are worth 20% of your final grade (total 60%). Exam 1 will cover textbook chapters 1-4. Exam 2 will cover textbook chapters 5-9. Exam 3 will cover chapters 10-15. The format for these exams will include multiple choice questions, identifying brain regions/pathways, and short answer questions.

There will ten quizzes, each of which are worth 2% of your final grade (total 20%). These quizzes will cover the previous week's lecture and are intended to keep you up to speed with the course content. The format for these quizzes will be multiple choice questions.

Homework includes weekly online practice assignments (total 15%) and one written assignment (5%). The online practice will be accessed through weblinks and will include a review of important terms, concepts, and brain regions/pathways. The links and due dates for these online assignments will be announced each week during class and through email. The written assignment will involve a short essay where you will explore one of the topics within this course in detail. The written assignment is due on April 16th, and the instructions for it will be announced during the semester.

In addition, you will have an opportunity to earn +3% of your final credit through extra credit. Opportunities for extra credit will be announced during the semester.

Grades Scale:

Grade	Percent		
A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D	60-69%
B-	80-82%	F	0-59%

Grading is NOT on a curve. Your percentage will be rounded to the nearest integer (e.g., 86.6 → 87 or 92.1 → 92).

GVSU COURSE POLICIES:

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>

At this website you can find all policies related to such topics as academic integrity, disabilities, inclusion, and discrimination. Please note that you are responsible for knowing and following the policies that are listed here. It is a good idea to read through them to familiarize yourself with them.

Note that violations of the academic integrity policy, including plagiarism or cheating on exams, will result in the student earning a failing grade for the assignment. If the violation is severe, the student will fail the course.

Attendance and Missing a Class

Attendance is not taken in this class, however every class will have a quiz starting January 16th. If you must miss a class due to illness or another reason, you should arrange to get notes from a classmate, and carefully review those and the PowerPoint slides from that lecture(s). It is also highly recommended (once you are well again) that you come to office hours to go over material from the day(s) you missed and ask questions.

If you miss a class due to illness etc., let me know as soon as you can, and make sure you get a doctor's note (see below).

Holidays and Special Needs:

Please let me know at the beginning of the semester if you will have to miss a class or reschedule an exam due to a religious holiday. The more notice I am given, the more likely it is that I can accommodate your needs.

To make up an exam or quiz missed due to illness, a doctor's note is required.

Please also let me know at the beginning of the semester if you have a disability or special needs in the classroom or on exams. I will work with Disability Support Services to make accommodations for you.

Course schedule: (Subject to change; Some lectures may continue into the following week)

Date	Topic	Quizzes and Homework
Th 1/9	Course Introduction Foundations of Perception (Ch 1)	
Th 1/16	Light and the Eyes (Ch 2)	Quiz 1 (foundations) Online Homework 1 Due
Th 1/23	The Visual Brain (Ch 3)	Quiz 2 (light and eyes) Online Homework 2 Due
Th 1/30	Object Recognition (Ch 4)	Quiz 3 (visual brain) Online Homework 3 Due
Th 2/6	Unit 1 Review	Quiz 4 (object recognition) Online Homework 4 Due
Th 2/13	Unit 1: Exam (Feb 13)	
	Perceiving Color (Ch 5)	
Th 2/20	Perceiving Depth (Ch 6)	Quiz 5 (perceiving color) Online Homework 5 Due
Th 2/27	Perceiving Motion and Action (Chs 7-8)	Quiz 6 (perceiving depth) Online Homework 6 Due
Th 3/5	<i>Spring Break (No Class)</i>	
Th 3/12	Attention and Awareness (Ch 9) Unit 2 Review	Quiz 7 (motion and action) Online Homework 7 Due
Th 3/19	Unit 2: Exam (Mar 19)	
	Sound and the Ears (Ch 10)	
Th 3/26	The Auditory Brain (Ch 11) Speech and Music (Ch 12)	Quiz 8 (sound and ears) Online Homework 8 Due
Th 4/2	The Body Senses (Ch 13)	Quiz 9 (auditory brain, speech, music) Online Homework 9 Due
Th 4/9	Taste and Olfaction (Chs 14-15)	Quiz 10 (body senses) Online Homework 10 Due
Th 4/16	Unit 3 Review	Written Assignment Due
Th 4/23	Unit 3: Exam (Apr 23)	