

**Psych 424: Perception and Sensory Processes**  
**Fall 2017 Syllabus**  
**Sibley 105, Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 2-2:50**  
**<http://facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje/424/424.asp>**

This course is concerned with the structures and processes that transform physical energy into meaningful information for guiding behavior. We will address each of our senses, describing the type of information upon which perception builds, and considering how anatomy and physiology allow us to extract such information.

**Course objectives:**

- gain an overview of the field of perception
- understand the methods and techniques used in studying perception
- understand the basic anatomy and physiology underlying the different senses
- learn about the different theories of perception
- appreciate the complexity of our perceptual experience

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		<b>web page:</b>	<a href="http://facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje">facweb.plattsburgh.edu/wendy.braje</a>

**Text:** G. Mather (2016). *Foundations of Perception*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Psychology Press Ltd

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required. However, I do not formally take attendance in this class. I assume that you are all adults who should be able to realize the value of attending class. If you do not attend class, it will hurt your grade in that you will miss out on important information. You are responsible for all material provided in lecture, which very often includes material that is not in the textbook (and this information WILL be on the test!) The material in this course can be difficult and technical, and you will benefit from the explanations and demonstrations given in class. Exams focus on lecture material, so if you miss class, you will not be able to do well on the exams. If you do miss class (regardless of the reason), you are responsible for obtaining the missed information from a classmate.

**Academic honesty:**

It is expected that all students enrolled in this class support the letter and the spirit of the Academic Honesty Policy as stated in the college catalog. Please be sure you are familiar with the Academic Honesty Policy and Cheating Policy, which can be found in the college catalog and on the web at <http://www.plattsburgh.edu/offices/academic/provost/academichonesty.php>. Ignorance or misunderstanding of what constitutes academic dishonesty will not be excused. All instances of academic dishonesty, regardless of how "minor" they may seem to you, will be reported to the college and become part of your permanent record. The penalty for academic dishonesty will range from a 0 on the assignment to a final grade of E in the class depending on the offense.

All written work must be in your own words. In no case should you work on an assignment with another student. Too often, doing so results in students submitting answers that are too similar to each other. Even if this is unintentional, all students involved will be reported to the college, and all assignments will receive a 0 (the students will possibly fail the course, depending on the severity/extent of the offense).

**Homework/Activities (15%):**

Homework and activities will be assigned periodically during the semester. The activities will provide a way for you to apply and/or practice the knowledge you gain in class.

**Tests (60%):**

There will be 7 tests during the semester. The tests will consist of about 80% multiple-choice and 20% short-essay questions, covering material from both the lecture and the textbook. *Tests must be taken in class on the designated dates.* If you need to miss a test, a doctor's note or other official documentation is required for you to make it up. Please note that leaving early/returning late from a break is NOT an acceptable excuse for missing a test. Your lowest test grade will be dropped. **Study guides** for the tests will be posted on the course web site.

**Final Exam (15%):**

The final exam will be held during finals week. It will consist of multiple-choice questions, and will be comprehensive.

**Paper (10%):**

For this part of your grade, you will be researching the perceptual system(s) of a non-human animal. Further details are provided on the course website.

**Grading summary:**

94-100%	A	79-81.9%	C+
91-93.9%	A-	76-78.9%	C
88-90.9%	B+	73-75.9%	C-
85-87.9%	B	70-72.9%	D+
82-84.9%	B-	67-69.9%	D
		<67%	E

The final application of these guidelines is subject to the discretion of the instructor. **Please note that I do not allow students to do “extra work” to make up for poor performance on the assignments or exams.**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Date	TOPIC	Chapter
8/28	Introduction, Psychophysics	1
8/30	Psychophysics, Signal detection theory	1
9/1	Signal detection theory	1
9/4	Olfactory system; video	2
9/6	Olfactory system	2
9/8	Olfactory system	2
9/11	<b>Test 1</b> (Ch 1, 2)	
9/13	Gustatory system	2
9/15	Gustatory system; video	3
9/18	Touch, Temperature, Pain	3
9/20	Touch, Temperature, Pain	3
9/22	Vestibular system; video	3
9/25	Vestibular system	3
9/27	<b>Test 2</b> (Ch 2, 3)	
9/29	Sound, Auditory system	4
10/2	Pitch	5
10/4	Loudness	5
10/6	Localization	5
10/9	<b>Fall Break</b>	
10/11	Speech	5
10/13	<b>Test 3</b> (Ch 4, 5)	
10/16	Music	5
10/18	Hearing impairment	5
10/20	Vision; video	6
10/23	Light, Anatomy of the eye	6
10/25	<b>Test 4</b> (Ch 5, 6)	
10/27	Visual physiology	7
10/30	Higher processing	7
11/1	Color	8
11/3	Spatial vision	9
11/6	<b>Test 5</b> (Ch 7, 8)	
11/8	Shape and objects	10
11/10	Depth	11
11/13	Depth	11
11/15	Size	11
11/17	<b>Test 6</b> (Ch 9, 10, 11)	
11/20	Motion	12
11/23	<b>Thanksgiving break</b>	
11/25	<b>Thanksgiving break</b>	
11/27	Motion	12
11/29	Visual impairment	
12/1	Visual impairment	
12/4	Synesthesia	13, Paper due
12/6	Synesthesia: video	
12/8	<b>Test 7</b> (Ch 12, 13, visual impairment)	
<b>Finals Week</b>		<b>Final Exam: Check Banner for schedule</b>