

PSYC 309
Sensation & Perception
Summer 2010

Section 001: 7:20 – 10:00 pm Tuesday & Thursday

Location: Innovation Hall 129

Instructor: Dr. William A. Perez

Office: Thompson Hall, 131 (adjunct office)

Ph: 571.241.4797 (my cell phone)

Email: wperez@gmu.edu (please put PYSC 309 in the subject header)

Office Hours: 6:00 – 7:00pm, T&TH. *Please do send me an e-mail if you need to see me.*

I fully encourage you to contact me by email if you have any questions about the class.

Text: [Sensation & Perception 8th Edition, E. Bruce Goldstein, Thomson-Wadsworth.](#)

Prerequisites: Psych 300 (C- or better) or permission of instructor.

Students who fail to attend the initial meetings of both lecture and lab sections may be dropped from the course.

Technology Requirement Students are expected to be competent in word processing skills, Internet use, compiling of bibliographies, literature review searches, and downloading pictorial material from computers.

Course Description This course is an introduction to how the brain receives and processes information from the environment. Course deals with sensation -- information must be received in a manner in which our nervous system can respond to it. We will also discuss perception - how the brain interprets information and attaches meaning to it. The study of sensation and perception is one of the earliest areas of study in Psychology.

Attendance Policy: I expect (barring unforeseen circumstances) to see you in class each week. Keep in mind that many of the topics discussed in class are not discussed (or at least not in as much detail) in your textbook. Although I do put some lecture notes on the web, they will not be complete and will not match the presentation given in class. If you miss a class, it is up to you to learn the missed information. **NO CELL PHONES OR PAGERS.**

GMU Honor Code: George Mason University has a code of Honor that each of you accepts by enrolling as a student. My expectation is that all of the work you do for me

in this class will be the work of one individual. **Plagiarism or any other violation of the honor code will be taken very seriously and reported to the Honor Committee.** However, I fully encourage you to discuss the readings and topics raised in this class with your fellow students.

Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office."

Exam Make-up Policy: You may take a test after (or before) the scheduled date only if you (a) receive my permission before the day of the test, or (b) have a valid excuse (note from a doctor, judge, sergeant, etc.). Papers will not be accepted beyond the due date.

Points

Lab	100 (The Lab syllabus will have more details)
Lecture	
Exams	150
Quizzes	40
Attendance/Participation	10
Total	300 points

Grades (Based on the percent of the above 300 points earned)

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
< 60%	F

Tests (150 points): There will be 3 tests, consisting of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answers.

Quizzes (40 points): There will be pop quizzes throughout the term. These will be given at the start of class. There will be more than 40 points available for quizzes throughout the term. There will be no make up quizzes.

Lab (100 points): The lab will account for about 1/3 of your total grade in Psychology 309. Late assignments will receive partial credit. *This course fulfills all/in part the Writing-Intensive requirement in the Psychology Department.*

Attendance and participation: About 3% of your grade will be based on attendance and participation.

Calendar:

Note: The schedule below is tentative, and though I will try to follow it as closely as possible changes may occasionally be necessary. In the event that an exam date is changed, you will be notified at least one week in advance.

Date	Day	Chapter	Topic
06/08/10	Tues	1 & appendix	Introduction
06/10/10	Thurs	2	Physiology
06/15/10	Tues	3	Intro to Vision
06/17/10	Thurs	4	The brain and Vision
06/22/10	Tues		Test 1
06/24/10	Thurs	5	Perceiving objects
06/29/10	Tues	6	Attention
07/01/10	Thurs	7	Taking Action
07/06/10	Tues	8	Perceiving motion
07/08/10	Thurs		Test 2
07/13/10	Tues	9	Perceiving color
07/15/10	Thurs	10	Perceiving depth & size
07/20/10	Tues	11	Perceiving sound
07/22/10	Thurs	12	Sound localization
07/27/10	Tues		Test 3