

## Sensation & Perception – PSY428

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Course Schedule: TR 11-12:15 in LSCB 241  
Office Hours: MTW 1:00-3:00 PM in LSCB 381  
[www.usouthal.edu/psychology/gordon/](http://www.usouthal.edu/psychology/gordon/)

**Course Overview:** In this course we will explore Sensation & Perception by examining the history, physiology, and behavioral research in this field. We will answer questions about how, why, and what we perceive with an emphasis on depth and advanced understanding of each topic.

**Required Readings:** *Sensation & Perception 2e*, ISBN 978-0878939534, by Wolfe and colleagues and published in 2008 is required. The readings will be a worthwhile component of this course and the topic of many a discussion, so here is a recommendation. Always read the assigned pages before they are due. Extra assignments or quizzes may be added if students do not show familiarity with the assigned readings.

**Course Requirements & Grading:** You will accumulate points from the following activities:

<b>Total</b>	<b>500 pts</b>	<b>100%</b>
Midterm	100 pts	20%
Chapters	100 pts	20%
Final	150 pts	30%
FLAs	150 pts	30%

1. **Midterm:** The midterm will examine your accumulated knowledge for the previous weeks of lecture and reading material, with an emphasis on the lectures. The midterm will consist of multiple choice questions with short answers explanations. You will be required to bring a pencil & pen to all tests, and scantrons will be provided. **100 pts possible.**

2. **Final:** The final exam will have two components. The majority of the questions will be drawn from the second half of the course and be equivalent to the first midterm. Additional questions will be taken from the midterm, and a few new questions will address the most important ideas from throughout the course. In short, this final is partially cumulative with an emphasis on the last portion of the course. In even shorter, second half + more. **150 pts possible.**

3. **Fun Little Assignments (FLAs):** FLAs will be your opportunity to play around with some of the experiments and ideas in Perception. For each FLA you should pick 1 article from the website to read for background. Then you will follow the online instructions on how to do the quick experiment. After completing the experiment you will write a short paper (**400 to 600 words**) that summarizes the article you read, and how the experiment went. Please turn in a typed, APA-style manuscript on the due date (12 pt Times-New Roman Font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, etc).

Your article summary should give a short paragraph of introduction (what is interesting about this topic), then a few sentences describing what happened in the article you read using *proper citations* (NOTE\*\* not having citations, or using improper citations are forms of plagiarism!). While you should discuss the article you read do not ever, not even once, for no reason whatsoever, use direct quotes. Always put things into your own words, even if they are not as poetic and scientific-y as the original ones. After you finish describing the article, discuss the fun little experiment you did! Tell me about your experience and the results you found when you did the test. There will be questions regarding the FLA online that you can use to guide your discussion. To close the manuscript, state clearly whether you think your **results fit with the article that you read!**

Grading will be completed using the following system: well-written, complete articles of the correct length will earn up to 30 pts. Deductions will be taken for partially incomplete articles, articles over/under the word limit, and badly written articles with poor or very incomplete summaries. Before credit is granted for completion of an assignment you **MUST** submit your FLA to <http://www.turnitin.com> – the anti-plagiarism website. **30 pts per FLA, 150 pts possible.**

4. **Chapters.** Discussions of the chapters will be your chance to discuss with a small group the readings of that day. Here is what is involved. For each assigned chapter you will outline two key sections. While you are expected to read the entire chapter, bring to class your section outlines of two sections and discuss them with your group. Following the discussion your group will answer a series of questions about the chapter.

Grading for the chapters will be as follows:

*Outlines earn up to 5 points:*

0-1 = incomplete to poor outline

2-3 = short/simple book section + average outline

4-5 = long or difficult section + outstanding outline

*In-class responses earn up to 5 points (scored for the entire group):*

0-2 = one or more missing, incomplete, or extremely inaccurate responses

3-5 = Good to excellent responses, all accurate

With a possible 10 pts per discussion and 11 total, you can earn up to **100 pts + 10 Extra credit pts!!**

5. **Attendance:** Attendance is a critical part of this course as most of the test questions, and almost all of the most interesting stuff is presented during lectures. To encourage your attendance you will earn EXTRA CREDIT for attending 90% or more of the lectures (i.e., 3 or fewer absences). **10 Extra credit pts** for great attendance!

**Late policy, missed tests, etc:** Assignments and tests are to be completed on or before the due date to receive full credit, unless special arrangements are made *in advance* and approved by the professor. Students may schedule a make-up **in advance of an exam or assignment** for any appropriate reason, pending approval by the professor. *If a student misses an assignment* without prior consent and requires a make-up then a **documented valid excuse** will be required. Make-ups must be scheduled and **completed within 14 days of the original due date**. Scheduling a make-up or new assignment deadline is the responsibility of the student, and failure to do so will result in failure on the assignment.

**USAonline/eCollege:** Throughout the semester your points from assignments will be posted on eCollege, <http://www.usaonline.southalabama.edu/>. While eCollege is a secure system to view your assignments, it *is not your official grade*, official grades come from the office of the professor and PAWS. You also need to be aware there is a lag between when you turn in assignments and when they show up on eCollege because these scores need to be painstakingly (and correctly) entered individually for all students. So please be patient with eCollege, and let me know if you think we need to adjust your eCollege scores during the semester.

**Upper-Level Assessment:** The Department of Psychology is required to assess how much its students learn in their psychology courses. Therefore, junior and senior level students enrolled in upper-level psychology courses are required to take a test of general psychology knowledge. This test is currently slated to be administered online and will take about an hour to complete. You will receive more information from your professor about how to take the test (e.g., the web address) at about the midpoint of the semester. If you are a junior or senior level student (if you are not sure, please ask your professor) then you must complete the test by the end of the semester. Please note that if you do not complete the test, your graduation may be delayed. Also note that you are required to take this test even if you have already taken the test during a previous semester. Finally, if you are enrolled in multiple upper-level psychology courses, you only need to take the test once.

**Cell-phones, pagers and other electronic devices:** All electronic devices are strictly prohibited during tests unless you receive special permission. Personal recording devices may be used for any non-exam class period by students who have *obtained permission from the professor*. Recordings may be used for educational purposes only, and are expressly forbidden for use in profiteering, public re-broadcasting and podcasting, home answering machine messages, or any other activity not specifically educational and part of this class.

## Course Calendar & Readings:

Week 1	Jan. 12 History	Jan. 14 History & Philosophy (assign FLA1)
Week 2	Jan. 19 Psychophysics	Jan. 21 Signal Detection (Ch.1)
Week 3	Jan. 26 Olfactory Sensation & Smell	Jan. 28 Visual sensation (Ch2) (assign FLA2) <b>FLA1 DUE</b>
Week 4	Feb. 2 Visual Sensation & Colors	Feb. 4 Color & Illusions (Ch.5)
Week 5	Feb. 9 Object recognition	Feb. 11 Object recognition (Ch.4)
Week 6	Feb. 16 MARDI GRAS	Feb. 18 Faces <b>FLA2 DUE</b>
Week 7	Feb. 23 Auditory sensation (assign FLA3)	Feb. 25 Auditory Sensation (Ch.9)
Week 8	Mar. 2 Auditory Brain (Midterm prep)	Mar. 4 Hearing space (Ch.10)
Week 9	Mar. 9 Echolocation (assign FLA4)	Mar. 11 <i>MIDTERM</i> <b>FLA 3 DUE</b>
Week 10	Mar. 16 SPRING BREAK (no class)	Mar. 18 SPRING BREAK (no class)
Week 11	Mar. 23 Scene Perception	Mar. 25 Scene Perception (Ch.8)
Week 12	Mar. 30 Motion	Apr. 1 Motion (Ch.7) <b>FLA 4 DUE</b> (assign FLA5)
Week 13	Apr. 6 Sensory exotica	Apr. 8 Sensory Exotica (Ch.12)
Week 14	Apr. 13 Speech & Communication	Apr. 15 Sp. & Comm. (Ch.11)
Week 15	Apr. 20 Music	Apr. 22 Perception & lifespan (online reading)
Week 16	Apr. 27 Perception & Action	Apr. 29 Multimodal World <b>FLA 5 DUE</b>
Week 17	FINALS WEEK Thurs, May 4 @ 10:30 AM (subject to change – refer to official university schedule!)	

\*Note: This calendar is only an approximation of the actual schedule. All dates and times are subject to change, and probably will at some point. All changes will be noted in class and on the class webpage.

**Changes in Course Requirements:** Since all classes do not progress at the same rate, the instructor may wish to modify the above requirements or their timing as circumstances dictate. However, the students must be given adequate notification. Moreover there may be non-typical classes for which these requirements are not strictly applicable in each instance and may need modification. If such modification is needed, it must conform to the spirit of this policy statement.

**Students with Disabilities:** In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify your professor and provide certification from Special Student Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212.

**Email etiquette:** Both the teaching assistant and myself will try to be as attentive as possible to emails, generally returning them within a couple of hours during normal business hours (8AM-5PM). To help us with this, please ALWAYS sign your name to emails so that our responses can be addressed to you properly. Also the university prohibits emailing grade information. If you ask about grades the questions can be answered generally, but no specifics about your test scores or assignments can be sent to you. Grade information can be found on USAonline.

**Academic Honor Code:** Please maintain the highest levels of academic integrity as you attend this and all of your courses. As a community of students and scholars, the University strives to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All members of the community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in academic work. Any dishonesty related to academic work or records constitutes academic misconduct including, but not limited to, activities such as giving or receiving unauthorized aid in tests and examinations, improperly obtaining a copy of an examination, plagiarism, misrepresentation of information, altering transcripts or university records. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from the loss of credit for a particular assignment to dismissal from the University. Faculty, students, and staff are responsible for acquainting themselves with, adhering to, and promoting policies governing academic conduct.

All matters related to academic misconduct are the responsibility of the academic units involved and the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. These matters will be resolved through procedures defined herein for both graduate and undergraduate students.

**Turnitin Use Policy:** The University of South Alabama is committed to academic honesty. The student handbook, *The Lowdown*, defines plagiarism as one form of academic misconduct which is "subject to investigation and disciplinary action through appropriate university procedures." Plagiarism is using somebody else's ideas in your writing without correctly identifying the sources. As one resource for helping you avoid plagiarism, your written work in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar detection method, for an evaluation of the originality of your ideas and proper use and attribution of sources. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in a restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism in such documents. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may be subject to some form of originality review. A paper not submitted according to the guidelines set by the professor may be penalized or returned for no grade.

**Still need more information? Check out the class website at [www.usouthal.edu/psychology/gordon](http://www.usouthal.edu/psychology/gordon)**