

PSY 336 Sensation and Perception  
Summer I 2008  
Credit hours: 3  
MTWTF 12-2.00  
LDB 215

Instructor: T. C. Sim, Ph.D.  
Office: Rm. 333, AB4  
Tel: 294-1507  
Office hours: Refer to grading policy.

Required Text: *Sensation and Perception*. (7th ed.) by E. Bruce Goldstein.

#### PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Please take note that this is a proposed schedule. Any changes in the schedule (especially EXAMS) will be announced in class. If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to get information on any updated changes from classmates. In addition to the scheduled chapters, there will be numerous classroom CD-Rom demonstrations of the various phenomena mentioned in the text.

- Part 1. Introduction to perception.  
Receptors and Neural Processing  
The Lateral Geniculate Nucleus and Striate Cortex  
Higher Level Visual Processing  
FIRST EXAM
- Part 2 Perceiving objects and forms  
Perceiving color  
Perceiving depth and size  
SECOND EXAM
- Part 3 Perceiving Movement  
Perception and Action  
Sound, the Auditory System and Pitch Perception  
Clinical aspects of vision  
THIRD EXAM
- Part 4 The cutaneous senses  
The chemical senses  
FINAL EXAM (Refer to Final Schedule)

## *OBJECTIVES.*

The last two decades have seen the fields of sensory and perceptual processes exploding into major subdivisions in psychology and neurophysiology. The five basic senses that we possess, we use incessantly and yet we rarely pause long enough to appreciate the complexities and intricacies that are involved in each sophisticated operation. This course is designed to provide us with an understanding of the processes underlying each of the senses. If we were to believe what we see, we would be turned into the most cynical skeptic in an illusory world. We will come to grips with well-known perceptual problems -- why, for instance, in a geometrical illusion figure, one line looks longer than another of equivalent length. In addition to exploring the human senses, we will also consider the sensory and perceptual processes of some other members of the animal kingdom. By the end of the semester, we may perceive the world differently (perhaps with a sense of awe and wonder, or with a greater sense of skepticism) but we will have gained a better understanding and appreciation of ourselves, and especially of the sensory world in which we exist.

“It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individuals otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodations”