**Please note: I prefer email correspondence. Please use phone only for emergencies**

**SENSATION & PERCEPTION**

**OFFICE HOURS**

MW 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
F 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
Other: email for appointment

In order to contact me during office hours, you can stop by in person, contact me via email (to schedule a Blackboard chat), phone, or Skype.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Sensation & Perception reviews the history, theories, research methods, and empirical findings regarding the study of sensory processes and the construction of our concepts of reality. The class explores the application of these theories to practical problems that occur in everyday experiences. Topics of discussion will be presented from neuropsychological and cognitive science perspectives.  
*Prerequisites: PSYC 2301: General Psychology*

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Understand the fundamentals of sensory and perceptual processes and demonstrate that understanding in the context of examinations  
- Learn the theories of perceptual processing and the experiments that helped to form those theories well enough to be able to display that knowledge and familiarity in assignments and examinations  
- Synthesize and apply their understanding of perceptual processes and theories of those processes to novel situations

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

This is an online class, so every student must have regular access to a computer, laptop, or tablet with reliable internet access, and a working Blackboard account with an islander email address.

In addition, you will need to have the following internet browsers to successfully complete the online quizzes/exams: Mozilla Firefox and Respondus Lockdown Browser.

ISBN: 978-1-60535-211-4
**Student Study Site:** sites.sinauer.com/wolfe5e

**MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**EXAMS:** The course will consist of four online units. There will be four (4) exams given during the semester, one exam per unit. Exams will contain multiple choice, essay, and diagram labeling questions, and will include material covered both in the powerpoint lectures and the textbook readings. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

**Extensions:** All units (including unit exams) must be completed by the date indicated. In extreme circumstances, an extension may be requested. To qualify for an extension, I need to be notified at least 24 hours prior to the unit completion date. The instructor has the final decision whether or not to allow an extension.

**ONLINE QUIZZES:** Each unit will consist of 3-4 chapters from the textbook. Embedded within each unit are online reading quizzes, 1 per chapter, each worth 10 points. Reading quizzes will cover material from the textbook and powerpoint presentations. All reading quizzes must be completed prior to taking the unit exam.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments must be completed by the assigned due date. Late assignments will not be accepted. All assignments are graded, and will count toward your final course grade.

**DISCUSSION BOARD:** You will complete a variety of discussion boards, each of which will give you valuable practice discussing topics relating to sensation and perception. During discussion boards, please give others and their ideas the attention and respect you expect to receive. I will post some questions in a discussion board for each Unit. You will need to post TWO comments. They can either be a direct response to the prompt/question I provided, or they can be a response to a peer’s post. In either case, the goal is to move the discussion further in a meaningful and accurate way regarding the topics covered that week. Discussion boards will be worth 10 points (5 points for each comment). Because you must contribute to each discussion board substantially, they cannot be “made up.” You will not be able to “make up” work after its deadline. Specific instructions on what constitutes as a good initial post and a good peer comment will be posted on Blackboard.

**DETERMINATION OF GRADES**

Grading for the course will be based on performance on exams, quizzes, and assignments. Each graded item will be posted on Blackboard upon completion. Students have one week after the date a grade is posted to contest that grade.
Remember: I do not give grades, you earn them. Course grades will be based primarily on the total number of points earned during the course. There will be approximately 600 points total for the course.

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the semester as follows:
(Please note: a grading curve may be applied to exam grades and/or final grades if warranted, according to the discretion of the instructor.)

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 – 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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To figure out what your grade is at any time, follow this simple equation:

Total points I received so far ÷ total points possible = Grade, then

Grade x 100 = percentage grade!

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Classroom Correspondence: All correspondence from the instructor will occur through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to make sure that your preferred email address is connected to the Blackboard site*, and also to check Blackboard frequently for announcements, assignments, and other correspondence.

*You can contact the TAMUCC help desk at ext. 2825 to make sure your emails from Blackboard are forwarded to your active email account

Email

• Please consider e-mail as official correspondence.
• Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 48 hours. If you do not receive an email within 48 hours, please send a follow-up email.
• No email correspondence on weekends.
• No email correspondence on the day before an examination or deadline.
• E-mail communications should be about class business. E-mail is not the place for summaries of lectures, discussions, readings, etc.
• Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message.
• Please also use professional language and include your full name, which class you are in, and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. Unprofessional emails will result in non-response.
• Please keep copies of e-mails that are sent and received for records purposes.

Classroom/Professional Behavior: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be
considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero on the item and/or a report made to the academic conduct committee for further penalization. **Note:** If a student is suspected of cheating on an exam for any reason, the student may be asked to complete a pop quiz on the subject matter that was covered on the test in question. If the student fails this pop quiz, disciplinary action will then be taken.

**Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **APRIL 10, 2020,** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of "W" this term.

**Grade Appeals:** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.
ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Disabilities Accommodations: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS COUNSELING & RESOURCES

http://counseling.tamucc.edu/academic%20success%20skills%20counseling.html

Our counselors can help you to better understand factors which may be interfering with your academic success and then work with you to develop an individualized academic success plan. We also have academic success resource materials to assist you. Visit the Counseling Center to make an appointment. Some of the issues that our counselors can help with are listed below.

Personal, Academic and Career Achievement Skills

- Improve Study Skills (effectively taking notes, reading, and studying)
- Management of Test Anxiety
- Stress Management
- Time Management
- Problem Solving Skills

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be
operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Tentative Schedule for the course:**

Notes:

1. Units must be completed in order.

2. All Assignments for each unit are due on the due dates indicated for that unit. **All Quizzes, assignments, and discussion boards must be completed prior to taking the exam for that unit.**

3. This Syllabus is subject to change or adjustment at the instructor’s discretion according to class needs. In the event of a syllabus change, a new, revised syllabus will be provided to all students.

4. This Syllabus is designed to help students understand as clearly as possible what is expected of them. Students should direct all questions regarding the course and/or syllabus to the instructor.

**Please note that all reading quizzes, assignments, discussion boards and exams are open from the beginning of the course until the deadline for that unit. You may complete them at your own pace, as long as they are completed by the proper deadlines.**

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<th>Unit 1: Vision, The Basics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chapter 1:</strong> Introduction</td>
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<td><strong>Chapter 2:</strong> The First Steps in Vision: From Light to Neural Signals</td>
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<td><strong>Chapter 3:</strong> Spatial Vision: From Spots to Stripes</td>
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<td><strong>Chapter 4:</strong> Perceiving and Recognizing Objects</td>
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**Unit 2: Higher Order Vision**
| Chapter 5: The Perception of Color | Quiz 5 | | |
| Chapter 6: Space Perception and Binocular Vision | Quiz 6 | | |
| Chapter 7: Attention and Scene Perception | Quiz 7 | | |
| Chapter 8: Visual Motion Perception | Quiz 8 | | |

*Discussion Board: see Bb*  
*Homework: Visual Illusions*  
*Exam #2*  
3/19  
3/20

| Unit 3: Hearing and Spatial Orientation | Quiz 9 | |
| Chapter 9: Hearing: Physiology and Psychoacoustics | Quiz 10 | |
| Chapter 10: Hearing in the Environment | Quiz 11 | |
| Chapter 11: Music and Speech Perception | Quiz 12 | |

*Discussion Board: see Bb*  
*Video Worksheet: Synesthesia*  
*Exam #3*  
4/9  
4/10

| Unit 4: Touch and The Chemical Senses | Quiz 13 | |
| Chapter 13: Touch | Quiz 14 | |
| Chapter 14: Olfaction | Quiz 15 | |
| Chapter 15: Taste | | |

*Discussion Board: see Bb*  
*Homework: Flavor (Field Demonstration)*  
*Exam #4*  
5/5  
5/6