Sensation & Perception

PSYC 4041 / 6014
Spring 2019
Dr. Bruce Walker
S&P: Overview

- How do humans (and other animals) sense and perceive the world?
- Consider philosophical questions that humans have long posed about perception
- Study the methods and techniques scientists use to try to answer them
- Study the sensory pathways, fundamental perceptual processing, and higher-level meaning-making
- Start with the skin senses and chemical senses followed by audition, vision, etc.
- Consider sensation and perception from several perspectives: physiological, psychophysical, ecological, motivational, and computational
Administrivia

- **Instructor:** Bruce Walker
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- [http://sonify.psych.gatech.edu/~walkerb/classes/perception/](http://sonify.psych.gatech.edu/~walkerb/classes/perception/)
- **TA:** Brittany Noah
- **Lab Instr.:** Rachel Stuck
- **Required Textbook:**
  - Textbook is available in hardcover, as well as various electronic versions. It may be purchased or rented in print or electronic format.
  - See syllabus for details
- **Note:** Additional readings will be required. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and read all required readings before the class in which they are discussed.
Outline of Topics

1. History & Methods of S&P
2. Skin senses
3. Pain
4. Chemical Senses
5. Orienting
6. Audition
7. Vision
8. Time Perception
9. Perceptual Development
Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm I</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm II</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper/Proposal (6014)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>200 (300)</strong></td>
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4041 LAB Grade: 25% of the overall grade.

Note: Read online syllabus carefully regarding assignments, reading, expectations, grading, and most of all, the final paper/research proposal.
Some General Points

➢ We hope to have discussions and perhaps even interesting debate...

➢ BUT this requires you to learn lots of background facts. So read and prepare before class.
  ❖ Don’t expect to get everything you need to know from the lectures--you may be tested on stuff never covered in class.
  ❖ Don’t expect to get everything you need to know from the textbook & readings--come to class.

➢ Respect and consideration are important:
  ❖ Show up on time, turn off your cell phones, don’t play Minecraft in class... you know, remember all those things your mother taught you about good manners.
Questions?
Sensation & Perception Questions

- Christopher’s “Broken fish”
Other Questions…

- If a tree falls in the forest….?
- Why is the sky blue (or is it?)?
- Can a computer see as well as we can?
- What is it like to feel no pain (none at all!)?
- Can babies hear before they are born?
- What, really, is “brain freeze”?
- What makes food spicy?
- Do blind people hear better?
- What happens to our senses as we get old?