

PSY B50F SENSATION AND PERCEPTION

Mon 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Wed 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Room H214) (Room H215)

Instructor: Joan E. Foley

Office: S559A Telephone: 287-7424

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. or by appointment

Objectives: The course will introduce students to our current understanding of the sensory-perceptual systems. The emphasis will be on human function, illuminated as appropriate by what has been learned about other species. The student should come to be able to

- describe the basic facts about the effective stimulus events, the receptors, and the organization of the neural pathways for the various systems
- demonstrate an understanding of the rationale of the various methods of psychophysical investigation
- demonstrate knowledge of the basic sensory capacities and functions such as acuity, localization, intensity discrimination, colour vision, tone perception ... etc.
- explain key concepts such as noise, transduction, receptive field, inhibition, adaptation, summation, opponent-process ... etc.
- appreciate the significance in perception of the stimulus context, the activity of the perceiver, and 'top-down' processes.

Textbook: *Sensation and Perception: An Integrated Approach.*
Third Edition. Wiley, 1990.

This same textbook will be assigned for both PSY B50F and for PSYB51S, Perception and Cognition, which will be taught in the spring term by Professor John Kennedy. The content coverage for PSYB50F corresponds basically with Chapters 1-13 inclusive of the text and for PSYB51S it will correspond basically with Chapters 14-21 inclusive. However, in either course the instructor may sometimes need to discuss particular topics from other parts of the book in order to explore their connection to topics in the assigned chapters. For example, in B50F, there will be some discussion of contrast, lateral inhibition and contour formation (topics dealt with in the text at the beginning of Chapter 14) in the context of dealing with the

topics of acuity and eye movements, which arise in Chapter 11. Nevertheless, contour and contrast will still be covered in B51S as a foundation to the discussion of form perception.

Course Outline: The topics will be discussed in class in the following order:

Week	(beginning)	Topic	Text Chapter
1	(12 Sept)	Introduction/The Orienting System	1,3
2	(19 Sept)	Psychophysics	2
3	(26 Sept)	Kinesthesia and Touch	7
4	(3 Oct)	Temperature and Pain	8
5	(10 Oct) *T!		
6	(17 Oct)	Vision	11
7	(24 Oct)	Vision	12
8	(31 Oct)	Vision	12,13
9	(7 Nov) T!	Vision	13
10	(14 Nov)	Audition	4,5
11	(21 Nov)	Audition	5,6
12	(28 Nov)T!	Audition	6
13	(5 Dec)	Taste/Smell	9,10

* The class will **not** meet on *Monday, 10 October* (Thanksgiving)

Evaluation: There will be three forty-minute in-term TESTS, each carrying one-sixth weight in determining the final grade. These tests will be held during class time on the following dates in the weeks marked T! in the schedule above:

DATE	TEST MATERIAL
<i>Wednesday, 12 October</i>	Chapters 1,2,3,7,8 and related lectures
<i>Wednesday, 9 November</i>	Chapters 11,12,13 and related lectures
<i>Wednesday, 30 November</i>	Chapters 4,5,6 and related lectures

There will also be a two and one-half hour FINAL EXAMINATION covering the entire course and carrying 50% weight in determining the final grade, to be scheduled during the final examination period (December 12-21). The examination schedule is not published until mid-November.

All tests and the final examination will include both multiple-choice questions and either short-answer or essay-answer questions.