

Human Senses Capstone (Psy 4974W) Fall 2018 Semester

Instructor: Dr. Steve Hackley
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Office phone: 882-3277
Office hours: 2:00-3:00 Tues & Thurs
OK to drop by any time,
except right before class

Teaching Assistant:

Class Meetings: 313 Psych Building
9:30-10:45 TuTh

Overview:

A capstone course is intended to be the culmination of your college experience. In this course you can expect to achieve three goals: (1) To learn about behavioral and neurological research on sensation and perception, (2) to learn about research methods by designing your own experiment and then carrying it out from start to finish, and (3) to improve your technical writing ability.

Structure:

This course will cover human sensory and perceptual processes by means of lecture presentations, laboratory experiments, and journal articles. There will be an initial study (on size constancy) that you will conduct in class in small groups and then write up on your own (6-8 pp.). After that, you and a lab partner will work together to design your own experiment, collect the data, and analyze the results. You can compose the consent form with your partner, but do all of the other writing yourself. Each of you will give an individual oral presentation to the class using PowerPoint slides and write up the experiment as your capstone thesis (10-14 pp.).

Points per Assignments:

- Proposal (10 pts.)
- Peer editing of intro & methods (10 pts.)
- Exam 1 (160 pts.)
- Size constancy lab report (100 pts.)
- Pilot work report (10 pts.)
- Preliminary introduction & methods (20 pts.)
- Prelim abstract, results & discussion (20 pts.)
- Slide show presentation (100)
- Capstone thesis, full draft (120 pts.)
- Exam 2 (140 pts.)
- Capstone thesis, final draft (150 pts.)
- Capstone thesis, active collaboration (40 pts.)
- Participation & attendance (120 pts.)

Total possible points: 1000

Grading Policy:

Letter grades are assigned to these points based on performance relative to that of students from current and previous semesters. In other words, your grade will be based partly on a curve and partly on absolute judgments of performance. Extra-credit projects will not be available. Study guides indicating the content of exams will not be provided. The plus/minus expansion of the traditional grading system will not be used. Letter grades awarded for individual assignments accurately predict the term grade. If you consistently make *Bs* and *Cs* on your exams and assignments, your semester grade will be a *B* or a *C*, not an *A*. Late assignments will be penalized by 10% if handed in within one week, 20% after that.

Participation:

Attendance at lectures and labs is expected. Attendance is even expected for class sessions that follow an exam, holiday, or break. Make-up exams and extension of deadlines will be granted for medical, family, or other legitimate reasons. Points will be deducted for absence, late arrival, surfing the web, sleeping in class, use of cell phone without permission and, most egregiously, not pulling your weight during group projects.

Ethical Issues:

Cheating on an examination, plagiarism of written material, or fabrication of data will result in a grade of F and a report to the university administration. Full prosecution will occur on the first offense, with no opportunity for a second chance.

Students who object to the requirements and grading system described above or who are offended (for religious or other reasons) by mechanistic explanations of human behavior grounded in Darwin and Wallace's theory of evolution are encouraged to drop the class at this time.

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. If disability-related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify Dr. Hackley of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Aug. 21 23	Introduction Psychophysics	Read Mai (2009) article
Aug. 28 30	Neurophysiology Light and the Eye	Read sample capstone thesis Read capstone topic ideas
Sept. 4 6	Choose topics & teams Design consultation	Read sample lab report
Sept. 11 13	Design consultation Writing a Research Report	Proposal & consent form
Sept. 18 20	Color & Contrast Depth Perception	Exchange intro & methods
Sept. 25 27	Exam I Size constancy lab	Peer editing
Oct. 2x 4x	Pilot work (Dr. H gone) “ “ “	Size constancy report due
Oct. 9 11	Brain & Sensation Attention	Report of pilot work
Oct. 16 18	Data collection Data collection	Study sample slide show
Oct. 23 25	Data collection Slide & data consultation	Intro & meth 2 nd draft
Oct. 30 Nov. 1	Slide & data consultation Slide & data consultation	
Nov. 6 8	Sound & the Ear Slide presentations	Prelim abst, results, discussion
Nov. 13 15	Slide presentations Slide presentations	Full draft of capstone thesis
Nov. 20x 22x	Thanksgiving Break “ “	
Nov. 27 29	Sound Localization Chemical Senses	
Dec. 4 6	Somatic Senses Exam II	Final draft of capstone thesis
Dec. 7	Reading Day	