

Perception  
Spring Semester 2012  
Dr. Fife  
Syllabus: Course Policies

**Perception “Basic Description”**

- This is the “official” textbook that is to be used in Perception:  
Foley, H. & Matlin, M. Sensation and Perception (5th ed.) New York: Allyn & Bacon, Boston, 2010.
- **Class Attendance:** Plan to attend each class. There will be unannounced graded writing assignments and graded student demonstrations assignments that will be completed in class.
- Your grade for this course will be calculated in the following way:  
Exam .....12.5%  
Exam .....12.5%  
Exam .....12.5%  
Exam .....12.5%  
Exam ..... 12.5%  
Final Exam ..... 12.5%  
(lowest exam grade dropped/  
final exam not dropped)  
Demonstrations and writing assignments. .... .25%  
(2 demonstrations and 1 writing dropped)

**Detailed Description of Perception**

Your teacher does not only expect that you will read the following description of the course, your teacher demands that you read the following description of the course. All of these policies will apply to all students enrolled in Perception.

**Course Content:** This course is about our senses: vision; hearing, taste, smell, touch, and balance. It covers the way that we receive information through our senses (sensory psychology) and the way that we interpret this information (perception).

**Course Objectives:** The objectives of perception are to: (1) present the basic material on the human senses, and (2) encourage an appreciation of the relative nature of our perceptions through an understanding of our sensory capacities and the role of interpretation, and (3) encourage an understanding the interaction of biological and cognitive processes. Students will be required to know and comprehend the information on our senses, and they will also be required to apply the information to real-life situations.

**Relationship to Other Psychology Courses:** It is through our senses that we gather information about the world around us. Our experiences come from information that we receive about our interactions with the world. Since this course deals with how we get information (learning) about our experiences, it is integrated with learning, cognitive, personality, abnormal, and the various courses covering human development.

**How to Reach Me:** My office is Hyde Hall 428, which is on the top floor of the building.

Office hours for this semester are:

Monday: 10:10-11:00  
 Tuesday: 11:00-12:15  
 Wednesday: 10:10-11:00  
 Thursday: 11:00-12:15  
 Friday: 10:10-11:00

E-mail address: "douglasf@plymouth.edu" (do not type quotation marks).

Please use e-mail to contact me.

**Textbook:** The textbook for this course can be purchased at the Campus Bookstore in the H. U. B. Buy a copy as soon as possible.

If you try to purchase textbook immediately before the first exam, you may find that there are none left. I do not loan textbooks - I have had many books not returned to me. You will not need to bring your textbook to class.

Here is the "official" textbook that is to be used in this course:

Foley, H. & Matlin, M. Sensation and Perception (5th ed.) New York: Allyn & Bacon, Boston, 2010.

This is not the textbook that I used for this course the past, and it will not be possible to use a textbook other than the Foley and Matlin 5<sup>th</sup> edition book that is listed above.

**Reading Assignments and Class Material:** The reading assignments cited in the syllabus correspond to the material that I intend to cover in class during that week. Depending on our progress, the class material may begin before the assigned reading or lag behind, and, ordinarily, will not be exactly the same as the reading assignments.

**Class Attendance:** Plan to attend each class. There will be unannounced writing and demonstrations assignments that will be completed in class. These assignments will be graded. If a student misses too many of these in-class assignments (more than three), then the student's grade will suffer.

**Class Participation:** The graded in-class demonstrations demand student participation. The majority of class meetings will be devoted to these types of assignments.

**Graded In-Class Assignments:** There are two types of graded assignments which will be given in class: (1) in-class demonstrations writing assignments and (2). writing assignments,

In-Class Demonstrations. These assignments are collaborative and are scheduled during class time. In-class demonstrations are not announced ahead of time. If an in-class demonstration is missed, then a score of "0%" will be recorded. However, two in-class demonstrations will be dropped.

A student will earn a "C", "B" or "A" on an in-class demonstration completed in class if: (1) directions have been followed, (2) all questions have been answered, and (3) actual effort has been put into obtaining the answers.. A student will get an "A" if all the answers are correct, but will not receive 100% unless work answer is creative or is exceptionally meritorious.

Practical considerations prohibit actually making up an in-class demonstration. However, if a student presents documented evidence that the absence was due to: a student's participation in University-sponsored events (described in the P.S.U. Catalog), a student's documented illness, a student's injury, a (documented) death in a student's immediate family, and a student taking a (documented) high-stakes test related to the student's plan of study, such as the Graduate Record Exam or Praxis, then a grade of zero will not be entered for the missed in-class demonstration and missing it will not affect the student's grade. Absolutely no verbal excuses will be accepted, under any circumstances - an excuse must be in writing. I will not contact anyone to obtain or validate a student's absence excuse. Not everything in writing will constitute as an excuse. The policy in this course is that I will make the final decision about whether an excuse for an absence is to be accepted. A student will be allowed to make up only two weeks of class assignments missed.

Writing Assignments. Writing assignments will ask for essay-style answers to questions. Some writing assignments will be passed out in class and others will be posted on Moodle.

A student can receive a C, a B or an A on a writing assignment, depending upon how accurately the student answers the questions.. A student will get an A if the minimum information is used, but will not receive 100% unless the student's answer is creative or involves work which is exceptionally meritorious.

Writing assignments will have a specific due date. A student's grade will be reduced according to the number of days that it is overdue.

A student can avoid a late penalty on a writing assignment may only if the student presents documented evidence that the absence was due to that student's participation in a University-sponsored event (described in the P.S.U. Catalog), a student's documented

illness, a student's injury, a death in a student's immediate family, and a student taking a high-stakes test related to the student's plan of study, such as the Graduate Record Exam or Praxis. Absolutely no (zero) verbal excuses will be accepted, under any circumstances - an excuse must be in writing. I will not contact anyone to obtain or validate a student's absence excuse. Not everything in writing will constitute as an excuse. The policy in this course is that I will make the final decision about whether an excuse for an absence is to be accepted. Each student will be allowed to make up only two weeks of assignments. The writing assignments, and in-class demonstrations are graded on the same percentage system that is used to score exams and also to determine a student's grade for the course.

The lowest writing assignment score will be dropped.

**Moodle:** At the Moodle Perception site, you will be able to access:

1. Textbook study guides
2. Class Calendar - Reading and examination schedule
3. Course Description - this "Course Policies" document
4. Some Assignments - The moodle assignments

**Examinations:** There are seven examinations, including the final examination. The specific chapters assigned for each examination are noted on the syllabus. The chapters that will be covered on each exam will not be changed. The final examination will only be over those chapters which are assigned for it., and it will not be given at any other time than the date and hours assigned in the final examination schedule.

Examinations are over assignments in the textbook and are also on class-related material. Class-related material consists of lecture material, student presentations, writing assignments, take-home assignments, and student "laboratory assignments".

Examinations are half multiple-choice and half essay. On each examination, there are twenty multiple-choice questions and four essay questions. You are to answer two of the four essay questions, and will not receive extra credit for answering more than two. Essay questions will require that you: describe, define, apply, and analyze and synthesize material. Half of your grade on the examination is based on your multiple-choice performance and half is based on your essay performance.

Usually, three-fourths of the multiple choice, and half of the essay questions are from the textbook. The remainder of the questions are from the class material.

Questions on class material may be based on what the teacher says about the material in class, or they may be from videos or in-class projects. Most of the time, textbook questions cannot be answered from the class material, and questions from the class material cannot be answered from the textbook. Your performance will be best if you review both the textbook and your notes.

Examinations may be made up only if a student presents documented evidence that the absence was due to: a student's participation in University-sponsored events (described in the P.S.U. Catalog), a student's documented illness, a student's injury, a death in a student's immediate family, and a student taking a high-stakes test related to the student's plan of study, such as the Graduate Record Exam or Praxis. Absolutely no verbal excuses will be accepted, under any circumstances - an excuse must be in writing. I will not contact anyone to obtain or validate a student's absence excuse. Not everything in writing will constitute as an excuse. The policy in this course is that I will make the final decision about whether an excuse for an absence is to be accepted. Each student will be allowed to make up only two weeks of assignments.

You will not be allowed to take an examination after the day which is two weeks after the examination date, or, if you left campus in conjunction with your excused absence, if it has been more than two weeks after you returned to campus after your excused absence. You may take only one makeup examination during final examination week.

Your lowest examination grade (of the first six examinations) will be dropped, but only if you take the final examination. Your final examination grade will not be dropped.

**Grades:** Your grade for this course will be calculated in the manner described on page 1 of this document.

The following grading system is used to determine grades on all assignments and examinations, and will also be used to determine grades that students receive for the course.

92.5-100% correct	= A
90.0-92.49% correct	= A-
87.5-89.9% correct	= B+
82.5-87.49% correct	= B
80.0-82.49% correct	= B-
77.5-79.9% correct	= C+
72.5-77.49% correct	= C
70.0-72.49% correct	= C-
67.5-69.9% correct	= D+
62.5-67.49% correct	= D
below 60% correct	= F

As soon as possible, your corrected examinations and class assignments are passed back to you during a class period. You are not permitted to keep an examination, and failure to return an examination to me, when they are collected, will result in a grade of F (0%) for that exam. You can keep the in-class assignments.

Grades in this course follow the rules set forth in the “Fair Grading Practices” policy which is found in the Student Handbook and the University Catalog.

**Dropping this Class and Withdrawing from this Class** February 5, 2012, is the deadline for dropping this class. Administrative officers will not be open then but that does not matter, since you will be dropping the class on-line through “my.plymouth.”

Students who have 47 or fewer credits will receive “sixth week grades.” Your “sixth week grade” for perception will be the average of all your work almost up to the semester’s half-way point. The “sixth week grade” for Perception will not involve dropped grades – that is done after the final exam.

If a student wants to “bail out” of Perception after the drop period has ended, then the student must “withdraw.” “Dropped” courses are removed from the transcript, but “withdrawals” stay on the transcript with a “W” notation). Students must complete a withdrawal form and submit it to the registrar's office. Withdrawal forms require an instructor's signature. The withdrawal deadline for full semester courses is April 6th.

**Students with Disabilities** Plymouth State University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you should immediately contact the PASS Office in Lamson Library (535-2270) to determine whether you are eligible for such accommodations. Academic accommodations will only be considered for students who have registered with the PASS Office. If you have a Letter of Accommodation for this course from the PASS Office, please provide the instructor with that information privately so that you and the instructor can review those accommodations.

**Cell Phones in Class:** Students are not permitted to make or receive personal calls on their cell phones during class. Cell phone ringers will be “OFF” during class. Students are not permitted to leave cell phones visible during examinations.

**Cheating and Plagiarism (Academic Integrity Issues):** Violations of academic integrity (such as cheating or plagiarism) will not be tolerated in this course. Everyone in this class probably has a clear idea of what constitutes instances of cheating and plagiarism, and what happens if someone does this. It is assumed that every student in this class is familiar with the section on “Academic Integrity” in the Student Handbook and the section on “Academic Integrity” in the P.S. U. Academic Catalog. We will conduct ourselves according to the material in these two sources. Ignorance of the policy on “Academic Integrity” will not be accepted as an excuse by anyone who violates that policy.

## Syllabus: Reading and Examination Schedule

### **Vision**

January 30 - February 3: Ch 1, pp 1 - 14

February 4 - 10: Ch 3, pp 43 - 81

Examination: Friday, February 10 (Chs 1 & 3 plus class-related materials)

February 11 - 17: Ch 4, pp 82 - 114

Holiday: Winter Carnival (Wednesday, February 15)

February 18 - 24: Ch 5, pp 115 - 148

Examination: Friday, February 24 (Chs 4 & 5 plus class-related materials)

February 25 - March 2: Ch 6, pp 149 - 188

March 3 - 9: Ch 7, pp 189 - 217

Examination: Friday, March 9 (Chs 6 & 7 plus class-related materials)

March 10 - 16: Ch 8, pp 218 - 239

Holiday: Spring Vacation (March 17 - 23)

### **Hearing**

March 24 - 30: Ch 9, pp 240 - 266

Examination: Friday, March 30 (Chs 8 & 9 plus class-related materials)

March 31 - April 6: Ch 10, pp 267 - 295

April 7 - 13: Ch 11, pp 296 - 325

Examination: Friday, April 14 (Chs 10 & 11 plus class-related materials)

### **Touch Temperature and Pain**

April 14 - 20: Ch 12, pp 326 - 352

April 21 - 27: Ch 13, pp 353 - 375

Examination: Friday, April 27 (Chs 12 & 13 plus class-related materials)

### **Perception and Development**

April 28 - May 4: Ch 14, pp 376 - 396

May 5 - 16: Ch 2, pp 15 - 42

Final Examination: Wednesday, May 16, 11:00a.m. - 1:30p.m. (Chs 14, 15 &

Appendix plus class-related materials)

### Textbook:

Foley, H. & Matlin, M. Sensation and Perception (5th ed.) New York: Allyn & Bacon, Boston, 2010.