

## Psych 210A – Course Overview

### Introduction to Cognitive and Brain Sciences I: Perception

“4 Units. Discusses models of cognition and evidence linking cognition and the brain. Focus is on visual, auditory, somatic, olfactory, and gustatory perception and bottom-up mechanisms of attention.”

#### INSTRUCTORS:

**Prof. George Sperling**

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Office: SBSG 2304

Office hours: by appointment

#### TIME/LOCATION:

Fall Quarter, 2018-2019

Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:50 pm

SBSG 2200

Course code: 68820

#### DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore human sensation and perception and examine behavioral, computational, and neurophysiological approaches used to investigate these cognitive functions. Weekly topics will include vision, audition, somatosensation, olfaction, and gustation.

#### FORMAT:

Class will consist of lecture and occasional discussions of associated readings. Syllabus, lecture slides, and readings may be found either on the course materials section of the EEE course website (<https://eee.uci.edu/18w/68840> for Dr. Brewer's lectures) or on Dr. Sperling's course webpage (for Dr. Sperling's lectures). Materials for Dr. Sperling's lectures will be at < [http://www.cogsci.uci.edu/~whipl/Vision\\_Class\\_Psych217/](http://www.cogsci.uci.edu/~whipl/Vision_Class_Psych217/)> which is also linked on the EEE website.

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

##### *Readings*

On some weeks, we will assign a selection of readings to complement lectures by highlighting interesting and current issues in sensation and perception. Readings

will include 1) review papers that argue for a theoretical interpretation of some body of literature, and 2) experimental papers that highlight techniques and evidence in a specific research area. Everyone will be responsible for reading all of the material prior to the class period in which it is discussed. For each paper, every student should prepare a page containing (a) a paragraph summarizing the paper's approach and findings and (b) a paragraph of related comments, constructive criticism, and/or questions for that paper. **PLEASE EMAIL US YOUR COMMENT PAGE BEFORE THE START OF CLASS.** Your paragraphs should also be used during class as a basis for participation in the discussion. There is no required textbook; required readings will be posted.

### *Homework/Quizzes*

A few lectures will have an associated homework assignment that will be due at the start of the next week's class. For other lectures, class will begin with a short quiz.

### *Final Presentation*

The final day of class will consist of student presentations. Each student will prepare a 12 minute presentation about a topic of their choice **related to the course**. Topics should be approved by one of the professors *prior to the presentation*.

### **GRADING:**

Letter grades will be based on class participation, paper commentary, homework, quizzes, and the final presentation.

*Revised: 2018.10.03*