



## PSYC 3115 | Sensation & Perception

**Course Catalog Description:** Introduction to the sensory and perceptual processes that provide the means to experience and make sense of the physical world in which we live. Topics include discussions of how sensory data are acquired, processed, and interpreted. **Credit Hours:** (3) **Prerequisites:** PSYC 1101 General Psychology and PSYC 2113 Introduction to Brain and Behavior with grades of C or above, or permission of instructor.

**Important Information:** Passing this course with a D or higher, or another Learning & Cognition option, is a requirement to receive a Psychology Major or Minor.

## Contact | Professor Fulton

Hello! I'm *Professor Fulton*.

Contact me by email: [marviene.fulton@charlotte.edu](mailto:marviene.fulton@charlotte.edu)

- Always include the full course section number in your email
  - 3115-002 or 3115-003 – check your registration to verify which one is yours
- I respond to emails Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm.
  - If I have not responded directly to you *or I've not sent out a class announcement that contains the response* within 30 hours, feel free to email again. Please.
- Please read the syllabus and assignment instructions closely before reaching out to me. Most answers to your questions are in this document or on Canvas.
- Use the Expected Digital Conduct instructions when composing your email. I provide it on Canvas in the Start Here module.
- Do not contact me about absences unless you are seeking a SASS verification. If you need notes, ask a classmate.

**Virtual Open-door Office Hours:** Mon 10am to 11am, except holidays, unless posted otherwise. Login with your @charlotte.edu email to join. Zoom link on Canvas homepage.

**Virtual Appointments – Available upon request.** We can meet one on one via Zoom by appointment. Login with your UNC Charlotte email to join the zoom.

## Class | Meeting Times

Go to **your registered** section each class period. It is on the top floor, across from the Psych Building's 4<sup>th</sup> floor (same level!)

Tues & Thurs in Colvard Building, room 5090  
3115-002 is 10:00 am - 11:15am  
3115-003 is 11:30 pm - 12:45 pm

## Required Materials

1. The **course textbook** is included as part of your Niner Course Pack program. However, no access codes are needed; a used book will work.

Title: Sensation and Perception  
Author: Jeremy Wolfe, Keith Kluender, Dennis Levi, Linda Bartoshuk, etc.  
Publisher: Sinauer Associates is an imprint of Oxford University  
Edition: 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>

2. You are required to have an internet or **WIFI capable device** that can access Poll Everywhere DURING class and can also take and upload pictures to Canvas.
  - **A device to use Poll Everywhere** during Lecture days, which is a graded part of the course. This can be a smartphone, tablet, or laptop computer.
  - **A device to take and upload a photo** to Canvas on Activity Days, which is a graded part of the course. A smartphone is best because you need a camera.
3. You need white lined paper or 6x4 white index cards & a #2 pencil or dark pen for the Activity Days. No color paper, small cards, or light pens.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Evaluate psychophysical methods used to study sensation and perception.
- Describe the biological mechanisms by which human sensory systems (vision, audition, olfaction, and gustation) transduce environmental stimuli into neural signals.
- Explain the neural pathways and brain regions involved in processing sensory information and perceptual experiences.
- Demonstrate an understanding of perception's subjectivity.
- Discuss scientific models and theories of sensory and perceptual systems, including classical findings and modern discoveries in neuroscience and psychology.
- Apply theoretical knowledge to practical contexts, such as understanding sensory impairments, technological applications in sensory substitution, and the design of environments to alter sensory processing.

## Grading & Feedback

I use a standard, non-rounded grading scale: **A** 100% to 90.0%, **B** 89.9 to 80.0%, **C** 79.9 to 70.0%, **D** 69.9% to 60%, **F** 59.9 to 0.0%

I will automatically round up the final grade for failing students that have completed all assignments.

Follow the “Syllabus” link in Canvas to see every assignment’s due date. The assigned due dates in Canvas have precedence over the tentative schedule provided at the end of this syllabus.

Course Element	Percentage
In-Class Activities - highest 5 of 7	10%
Poll Everywhere – must be in class - highest 15 of 17	15%
Module Practices - highest 10 of 12; 3 attempts each	20%
Exam 1 - Modules 1 to 4	15%
Exam 2 - Modules 5 to 8	20%
Final - Cumulative; but mostly Modules 9 - 13	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Extra Credit Opportunities for Everyone	Percentage
Individual Constructive Feedback 1	.5%
Individual Constructive Feedback 2	.5%
Individual Constructive Feedback 3	.5%
75% Class Participation in UNCC Anonymous Feedback Survey	1%
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

### Assignment Category Details

#### In Class Activities (10%)

Graded in-class activities are 10% of your grade. There are 7 opportunities; the highest 5 are kept. To do well on these you need to pay **attention during both of that module’s lectures**. Bring a #2 pencil and a white lined 6x4 index card or a half sheet of paper to activity days. You must upload a photo of your work and turn in the physical copy before leaving the classroom to get Activity credit. Each is worth 2% of your grade. Most of the grade is based on attempting to answer the question by following directions. You are allowed to work in groups immediately.

#### Poll Everywhere (15%)

Engagement (*attendance and attention*) will be ascertained through your participation in Poll Everywhere on days that there is not an activity. The lowest two are automatically dropped. Each is worth 1% of your course grade. The grade is earned by answering all questions, regardless of overall accuracy. You are heavily encouraged to establish a buddy system to wake you up to answer these.

Attention: Students participating in Poll Everywhere who are not physically present in lecture will be penalized 2% on their final course grade *per infraction*. These are IN CLASS graded assignments – doing them outside of class is cheating.

#### Module Practice Questions (20% total)

There are 12 Module Practices; the highest 10 are kept. You have three attempts. They will have 15 to 30 questions each. These questions will *guide* you on the major topics to study for the Exam. Each is worth 2% of your grade.

### Exams (15% & 20%) & Final (20%)

There are 3 in-class exams. Your final (exam 3) is semi-cumulative and will cover more material. Exams will typically be primarily multiple choice, but they will also have other types of questions. These may include fill in the blank, matching, and a few short essay questions.

### Late Work and Make-Ups

**In Class Activities and Poll Everywhere:** 10-pages no make-up without a SASS verification. I automatically excuse you from 2 class activities and 2 Poll Everywhere assignments. Make-up work, for those with a SASS verification, can include short essay responses to multiple questions.

**Module Practice Questions:** These are due weekly, but you can turn them in with no penalty until right *before* exam day. Module Practices are permanently closed before exam day.

**Exams:** All exams are in-class. Your final is during finals week and cannot be rescheduled after missing it. However, should you need to reschedule any exam before missing it or Exam 1 or 2 *after* missing it, you can. Here is the policy:

With SASS Verification:

- You are required to reach out to me as soon as you can to let me know a SASS letter is being requested.
- You are required to reach out again within 48 hours after the SASS clears to schedule the exam ASAP.
  - For SASS verified appointments: No penalty to take the exam early or to take it up to two days after it was scheduled.
  - For SASS verified uncontrollable events right before or during the exam: No penalty for rescheduling the exam *as soon as possible*.

Without SASS Verification:

- You can only reschedule one of the first two exams, at my discretion if you do not have a SASS verification.
- If you contact me a week or more before the Exam date:
  - You can take the exam a **day or two early without penalty**
  - You can take it up to 3 days after the due date with a 15% penalty a day
  - If you reach out less than a week before or after missing the Exam:
    - You can take it up to 2 days after the due date with a 25% penalty a day

## Course Policies

### Syllabus Revision

The class schedule, requirements, standards, and any information provided in this syllabus may be modified at any time. Notice of changes will be announced on Canvas, in class (for in-person

courses), and by email. Those changes will be reflected in an updated syllabus posted on the course website at <https://canvas.charlotte.edu>.

## General Conduct & Mutual Respect

**On Canvas, in the Start Here module, please read the page “Expected Conduct & Netiquette.” You are expected to be professional and courteous in all interactions.**

All students and the instructor are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person’s actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of [University Policy 406](#), The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further.

## Suspicious Behavior, Cheating, & Plagiarism

*ALL activities must be in your own words. Plagiarism will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Consequences range from being reported to the Division of Student Affairs to a zero for the assignment, at my discretion.*

For *suspicious behavior* during examinations that may intentionally or unintentionally give you the opportunity to cheat (which you may or may not have taken advantage of):

- You may receive partial credit or may be required to take a different version of the test – at my discretion
- Alternative test versions may have all different questions and be in an entirely different format than the original exam, including more fill in the blanks and essay questions.

Cheating *will* be reported to the Division of Student Affairs. I will follow the university’s code: <http://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/up-407>. Penalties can include (but are not limited to) receiving a zero on the assignment, receiving a 10%+ deduction in the class grade, total course failure, or expulsion from the university. Regardless of the penalty, it will be on your university record.

## Copyright Notice and Recording

My lectures and course materials, including presentations, tests, exams, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials I create. I encourage you to take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. However, you may not, nor may you knowingly allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly without my express written consent. This includes providing materials to commercial course material suppliers. Students who publicly distribute or display or help others publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor’s course materials may be in violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility, or University Policy 407, Code of Student Academic Integrity.

Electronic video, image capture, and/or audio recording is not permitted during class, whether conducted in person or online, unless the student obtains permission from the instructor. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited. Students with specific

electronic recording accommodations authorized by the Office of Disability Services do not require instructor permission; however, the instructor must be notified of any such accommodation prior to recording. Any public display or distribution of recordings is prohibited.

## Student Support

### Disability Support Services

Students seeking accommodation to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations. The Office of Disability Services works with current undergraduate and graduate students along with prospective students to ensure equal access to UNC Charlotte's campus and educational programs. Please visit the Office of Disability Services at for additional resources, email questions to [disability@charlotte.edu](mailto:disability@charlotte.edu), or call 704-687-0040 (tty/v) for more information.

### Student Support Services

Be sure to take advantage of the wealth of free resources and support available at UNC Charlotte students. Some of the resources available to you include the University Writing Resource Center, University Counseling Center, and the J. Murrey Atkins Library.

#### Mental Health Help

- [University Counseling Center](#) 704-687-0311

#### Academic Help

- [University Center for Academic Excellent](#) | (704) 687 7837 | [uncc-ucae@charlotte.edu](mailto:uncc-ucae@charlotte.edu)
- [University Writing Resources Center \(WRC\)](#) | 704-687-1899 | [wrcHELP@charlotte.edu](mailto:wrcHELP@charlotte.edu)

#### Technology Assistance

- [Atkins Library Laptop Lending program](#)

#### Other Services

- [Office of Adult Students and Evening Services \(OASES\)](#)
- [Veteran Student Services](#) | 704-687-5488 | [veteranservice@charlotte.edu](mailto:veteranservice@charlotte.edu)
- [Office of Identity, Equity, and Engagement](#) | 704-687-7121 | [mrc@charlotte.edu](mailto:mrc@charlotte.edu)

## Select University Policies

All university policies can be found at <https://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/university-policies>.

**UNCC Workload Policy:** Students are expected to work 1500 minutes outside of class for each **one** semester hour of credit. Each 1 credit hour corresponds to **a minimum** of 100 minutes of out of class work per week. This is a 3-credit course.

- According to UNCC policy: you are expected to do a minimum of 300 minutes (5 hours) of out of class work every week for 15 weeks of lecture in a 3-credit course.
- Some weeks will be busier than others for this course, but they will balance out with less demanding ones. *The busiest part of the semester is during the first third of it.*

Please check Canvas for a more select policies that I feel are important to note. The link is at the bottom of the Course Info page in the Start Here module.

## Tentative Schedule for Assignments

Rely on the Canvas **assigned** due dates & be aware of my late policy. Planning your workload and meeting deadlines is your responsibility. Complete assigned readings before lecture.

- **On Activity Days** you need to bring a white lined 6x4 index card or half a sheet of white lined paper, a dark pencil or pen, and a device to take a pic and upload it to Canvas during class. Lowest 2 are dropped
- **On Poll Everywhere days** you are required to have an internet capable device that will allow you to participate on webpages as a participation grade. Lowest 2 dropped.
- **On Exam days** you need to bring a laptop with lockdown browser working.

Week	Date	Main Class Lecture Topic	In Class Graded Assignment	Canvas Deliverables Due Friday, until Week 16
1	Jan-14 Tue	Mod 1 - Chpt 1 - Intro to Sensation & Perception	none	
	Jan-16 Thu	Mod 1, continued	none	1/17 MPQ 1
2	Jan-21 Tue	Mod 2 - Chpt 2 - Vision First Steps - Light to Neural Signals	none	
	Jan-23 Thu	Mod 2, continued	In Class Activity	1/24 MPQ 2
3	Jan-28 Tue	Mod 3 - Chpt 3 - Spatial Vision - Spots to Stripes	Poll everywhere	
	Jan-30 Thu	Mod 3, continued	In Class Activity	1/31 MPQ 3 Extra Credit - Feedback 1
4	Feb-4 Tue	Mod 4 - Chpt 4 - Perceiving & Recognizing Objects	Poll everywhere	
	Feb-6 Thu	Mod 4, continued	In Class Activity	2/7 MPQ 4
5	Feb-11 Tue	Lecture Wrap up & Review	Poll everywhere	
	Feb-13 Thu	<b>Exam 1: Intro &amp; Vision 1</b>	<b>Exam 01 – Your laptop w/ Lockdown</b>	
6	Feb-18 Tue	Mod 5 - Chpt 5 - Color Perception	Poll everywhere	
	Feb-20 Thu	Mod 5, continued	Poll everywhere	2/21 MPQ 5
7	Feb-25 Tue	Mod 6 - Chpt 6 - Space Perception & Binocular Vision	Poll everywhere	
	Feb-27 Thu	Mod 6, continued	In Class Activity	2/28 MPQ 6
8	Mar-4 Tue	NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK	N/A	



	Mar-6 Thu	NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK	N/A	
9	Mar-11 Tue	Mod 7 - Chpt 7 - Attention & Scene Perception	Poll everywhere	
	Mar-13 Thu	Mod 7, continued	Poll everywhere	3/14 MPQ 7 Extra Credit - Feedback 2
10	Mar-18 Tue	Mod 8 - Chpt 8 - Visual Motion Perception	Poll everywhere	FYI: 3/17 Last Day to Withdraw
	Mar-20 Thu	Mod 8, continued	In Class Activity	3/21 MPQ 8
11	Mar-25 Tue	Lecture Wrap up & Review	Poll everywhere	
	Mar-27 Thu	<b>Exam 2: Vision 2</b>	<b>Exam 02 – Your laptop w/ Lockdown</b>	
12	Apr-1 Tue	Mod 9 - Chpt 9 - Hearing: Physiology & Psychoacoustics	Poll everywhere	
	Apr-3 Thu	Mod 9, continued	Poll everywhere	4/4 MPQ 9
13	Apr-8 Tue	Mod 10 - Chpt 10 - Hearing in the Environment	Poll everywhere	
	Apr-10 Thu	Mod 10, continued	Poll everywhere	4/11 MPQ 10
14	Apr-15 Tue	Mod 11 - Chpt 11 Music & Speech Perception	Poll everywhere <sup>5</sup>	
	Apr-17 Thu	Mod 11, continued	In Class Activity	4/18 MPQ 11
15	Apr-22 Tue	Mod 12 - Chpt 14 - Olfaction - Smell	Poll everywhere	
	Apr-24 Thu	Mod 13 - Chpt 15 - Gustation - Taste	Poll everywhere	
16	Apr-29 Tue	Last Lecture: Lecture Wrap up & POSSIBLE Review	In Class Activity	*WED 4/30: MPQ 12 (Mod 12 & 13)  <b>Extra Credit – for students w &lt;64</b>
	May-1 Thu	NO CLASSES – READING DAY	N/A	*THU 5/1 Extra Credit Feedback 3 Due  TBA UNCC Anonymous Survey Due (75% Class participation = 1% extra credit)
17	May 6 Tue & or May 8 Thu	<b>Final: Cumulative - 3115-002 is Thu May 8, 8am-10:30am - 3115-003 is Tue May 6, 11am-1:30pm</b>	<b>Exam 03 – Your laptop w/ Lockdown</b>	