

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## Spring 2025 Syllabus

Introduction to Perception and Cognition • PSYC 4800 • 3 hrs.			
<b>Department of</b>	Psychology	<b>School of</b>	Liberal Arts & Sciences
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Dr. Matthew Harrison		
<b>Office Location:</b>	FH 201E		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	(310)709-4880		
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Harrison@untDallas.edu">Matthew.Harrison@untDallas.edu</a>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tues & Thurs 10am-1pm, Wed 10am-12pm; and by appointment		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	DAL1 208		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>Monday &amp; Wednesday: 1:00pm-2:20pm</b>		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	A general survey of current data in perception and cognition. Perception topics covered are psychophysics, sensory psychology, perceptual constancies and the development of perception. Cognition topics include short- and long-term memory, problem solving, concept formation and the acquisition of knowledge. The information processing approach is emphasized as a means of interpreting perception and cognition.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None		
<b>Required Text:</b>	Goldstein, E. B., & Brockmole, J. (2016). Sensation and perception (10th ed.). Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1305580299 ISBN-10: 130558029X		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	<u>UNT Dallas Library:</u> phone: (972) 780-1616 web: <a href="http://www.untDallas.edu/library">http://www.untDallas.edu/library</a> email: <a href="mailto:library@untDallas.edu">library@untDallas.edu</a> <u>UNT Dallas Bookstore:</u> phone: (972) 780-3652 web: <a href="http://www.untDallas.edu/bookstore">http://www.untDallas.edu/bookstore</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:untDallas@bkstr.com">untDallas@bkstr.com</a>		

<p><b>Supported Browsers:</b>          Chrome 68 &amp; up          Firefox 61 &amp; up          Internet Explorer 11          Edge 42 &amp; up          Respondus          Lockdown Browser          Safari 10, 11</p> <p><b>Supported Devices:</b>          iPhone          Android          Chromebook</p> <p><i>(Tablet users can use the Canvas app)</i></p> <p><b>Screen Readers:</b>          VoiceOver (Safari)          JAWS (Internet Explorer)          NVDA (Firefox)  <i>Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome</i></p>	<p>Getting Help with Canvas:</p> <p>Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634</p> <p>Canvas Help Resources:          Web: Canvas Student Guide  <a href="https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701">https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701</a></p> <p>For additional assistance, contact Student Assistance (Distance Learning):          Founders Hall, Rm 124          phone: (972)338-5580          email: <a href="mailto:distancelearning@untDallas.edu">distancelearning@untDallas.edu</a></p> <p>If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, make sure to keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.</p> <p>If you have a course-related issue (course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact me during office hours or by email.</p>
<p><b>Course Goals or Overview:</b></p>	
	<p><b>The goals of this course are as follows:</b>          The goal of this course is to examine the domains of perception and cognition within the context of human psychology. Relevant theories and literature will be discussed, and a thorough investigation of our own individual levels of established perception and cognition will be explored.</p>
<p><b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> At the end of this course, students will be able to:</p>	
1	<p>Explain what human perception and cognition is, how the two differ, and how each vary from person to person in a unique way.</p>
2	<p>Demonstrate critical thinking by performing tasks that will challenge their deeper levels of understanding regarding the subject matter and their own perceptual and cognitive tendencies.</p>
3	<p>Analyze established research and theories through a critical lens.</p>
4	<p>Apply what has been learned to themselves through a process of establishing and refining a profile that reflects their current and desired levels of perception and cognition.</p>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Assignments are due by 11:59 pm of the assigned date, and should be submitted via Canvas. The schedule is subject to change, as necessary. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via email or Canvas announcement.

Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in Canvas.

Course schedule is subject to change

Weekly Topic	Lecture Posted	Assignment Due	Topic Discussions
Week 1	Jan 13	Jan 19	
Chapter 1: Intro to Perception			
Week 2	Jan 20	Jan 26	
Chapter 2: Start of Perception	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
Week 3	Jan 27	Feb 2	
Chapter 3: Neural Processing			
Week 4	Feb 3	Feb 9	Feb 9
Chapter 5: Objects & Scenes			<b>Topic 1</b>
Week 5	Feb 10	Feb 16	
Chapter 6: Visual Attention		<b>EXAM 1</b>	
Week 6	Feb 17	Feb 23	
Chapter 7: Action			
Week 7	Feb 24	Mar 2	Mar 2
Chapter 8: Motion			<b>Topic 2</b>
Week 8	Mar 3	Mar 9	
Chapter 9: Color			
Week 9	Mar 10	Mar 16	
SPRING BREAK			
Week 10	Mar 17	Mar 23	
Chapter 11: Hearing		<b>EXAM 2</b>	

Week 11	Mar 24	Mar 30	
Chapter 12: Hearing Localization			
Week 12	Mar 31	Apr 6	
Chapter 13: Speech Perception			<b>Topic 3</b>
Week 13	Apr 7	Apr 13	
Chapter 14: Cutaneous Senses		<b>EXAM 3</b>	
Week 14	Apr 14	Apr 20	Apr 20
Chapter 15: Chemical Senses			
Week 15	Apr 21	Apr 27	
Chapter 4: Cortical Organization			<b>Topic 4</b>
Week 16	Apr 28	May 4	
Reading: Cognition & Memory			
Finals Day	May 5 (1-3pm)		
In class!	<b>EXAM 4</b>		

## GRADES

It will be your responsibility to monitor the progress of your course grade by using the grading table provided below. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about how to calculate your grade. You can use the table provided below to track points you have earned for each assignment. If you have concerns regarding your grade at any point, please contact me as soon as it arises. In addition, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible if you are having difficulty understanding the course material.

The course will consist of the following assignments:

- Weekly Assignments: Fourteen short assignments, cumulatively be worth 40% of your grade
  - These assignments will vary from week to week, and will take the form of both online quizzes, short writing assignments, or responses to discussions.
- Exams: Four exams, each worth 10% of your grade (cumulatively worth 40% of your grade)
  - The dates of the exams are given in the course schedule and will cover material listed from the textbook and lectures.
  - Exams will be administered through Canvas, and are due .
- Topic Discussions: Four discussion topics will be assigned throughout the course, each worth 5% of your grade (cumulatively worth 20% of your grade). These will involve the application of material learned in the course to your own perceptual experience of the world.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

ASSIGNMENTS	TOTAL POINTS	YOUR POINTS
Weekly Assignments	40	
Exam 1	10	
Exam 2	10	
Exam 3	10	
Exam 4	10	
Topic Discussions	20	
TOTAL:	100	

## GRADE SCALE

A = 90% and above	A = 90 - 100 points
B = 80 to 89.9%	B = 80 - 89 points
C = 70 to 79.9%	C = 70 - 79 points
D = 60 to 69.9%	D = 60 - 69 points
F = 59.9% or below	F = 0 - 59 points

## University Policies and Procedures

### **Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

#### Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, see Disability Services Office [www.untDallas.edu/disability](http://www.untDallas.edu/disability). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at [UNTDisability@untDallas.edu](mailto:UNTDisability@untDallas.edu).

### Canvas Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided <https://www.canvaslms.com/accessibility>.

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

### **Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy**

Student evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

### **Assignment Policy**

All assignments will be administered via Canvas. For additional information on final grade percentages and calculations, please see the grade table provided above.

Make-Up Assignments: No make-up activities are allowed without proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note, automobile accident report, funeral announcement, etc.). Additionally, make-ups will not be allowed until your documentation has been verified, which means that documentation must provide a contact name and number. Exceptions will be made for legitimate emergencies at the instructor's discretion (e.g., illness, death in the family), but only if students contact the instructor within 7 calendar days following the missed assignment. Computer problems like crashes or lost/corrupted files are not acceptable emergencies. Be sure to make back-up files of your work. Legitimate make-up work will only be allowed within one week of the missed assignment. If arrangements are not made in a timely manner, I will need documentation (e.g., hospital notice, etc.) explaining the delay. Otherwise, make-ups will not be allowed beyond one week.

### **Exam Policy**

We will have four exams throughout the duration of the course. Assessments are designed to test your knowledge of assigned readings. Exams will cover material from the texts, assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions, and will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. Each assessment will be administered via Canvas. Assessment details (availability and due dates) will be provided in the syllabus calendar and in Canvas.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and

procedures. Refer to UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity for complete provisions of this code [www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware that in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT: Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, may not be used for discussion board posts (which are meant to reflect your own thoughts, opinions, and knowledge) or any assignment which does not explicitly state ChatGPT may be used. However, you may use AI language models (including ChatGPT) for assignments which specifically state that AI language models/ChatGPT is permitted, as long as it is used with appropriate citation.

If you are in doubt as to whether you are using AI language models appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me. Examples of citing AI language models are available at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

When use of AI language models is allowed, you are responsible for fact checking statements composed by the AI language models

### **Classroom Policies**

1. Please respect your fellow students (and instructor) at all times, even if you disagree with them.
2. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grade scale above to help you keep track of points earned). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email.
3. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid, documented excuse (see guidelines noted above). If you miss an assignment and you have a valid, documented excuse, notify me as soon as possible via email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.

### **Diversity/Tolerance Policy**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions that violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

### **Technology Assistance**

In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the

first page of the syllabus.

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor. If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>
- Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720>