COURSE INFORMATION:
Fall 2010
Lecture: Monday/Wednesday 2-3.30p, STIT B21
Recitation: Friday 2-3p, STIT B21
No prerequisites. However, course not recommended for freshmen (talk to instructor), and for students who will not be able to regularly attend the recitation classes.

SYNOPSIS:
How do we construct a conception of physical reality based on sensory experience? The purposes of this course is to provide an overview of the facts and concepts of perception. The course will cover the different human senses and their physiological and perceptual characteristics, and the psychophysical methods used to measure those. Also, it will introduce some of the computational theories of perception, in particular probability theory.

INSTRUCTOR:
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COURSE-WEBSITE:
Complete and up-to-date course information will be posted on the CPC laboratory website: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~astocker/lab/
Confidential or copyright protected material may be posted on Blackboard.

perception can shrink monsters!
(they are the same size)
TENTATIVE LIST OF TOPICS:
History, Theories of perception, Physiology of the different sensory organs, Neural sensory processing, Vision, Audition, Chemical Senses, Psychophysical methods, Artificial Perception/Robots, Bayesian models of perception, The Rabbit illusion, and much more ...

COURSE TEXTBOOK:
Wolfe et. al.,"Sensation & Perception", 2nd edition 2009, Sinauer Associates (First edition is not recommended.) Also available is as electronic edition (ask Penn bookstore).
Note, the book has a companion website (www.sinauer.com/wolfe2e) that provides good learning summaries, extra examples and interactive demos.

ADDITIONAL READINGS:
There will be additional readings of original research literature, to be discussed in the recitation sessions. These articles, posted on the course web-site (or on blackboard), will be part of the exam material.

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS:

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:
There will be homework assignments given out two classes before each midterm exam. They will NOT be graded, but discussed in class and/or a review session before the exam. The assignments will also be similar in style to the exams.

EXAMS:
3 midterms and 1 final exam (date: 12/21 6-8p).
You may bring a 3x5’ card with hand-written notes to all exams (writing on both sides allowed). No other help.

There will be NO makeup exams. Unattended exams will automatically be scored as F. In the highly improbably case that a student has two or more qualified reasons of absence, only the best (worth 25%), respectively none of the midterm scores count toward the final grade. Qualified reasons of absences are a) a medical problem that does not permit taking the exam (note from dean's office or doctor required), b) a family emergency that takes you out of town (note from parents required), or c) an out of town trip connected with a UPenn sponsored activity (e.g. team sports, note from coach/activity sponsor required.)

FINAL GRADE: computed as the weighted average of the average-score of the best two (out of the three) midterms (50%), and the score of the final exam (50%). Rounding is performed arithmetically.