Class Assignment

# Chapter 1: What Is Perception?

**Assignment 1**

This question may be assigned as homework, for in-class group discussion, or discussed in a class forum:

What is your understanding of how sensation and perception operate in your daily life? Write down your thoughts on the questions below on the first day of class. Be prepared to share your answers and/or write on a discussion board, if possible, before the first day of class. Also, email me your answers. At the end of the quarter/semester, we will revisit this question to explore the changes in your perceptions over the course.

* What is your understanding of how your senses work? How do you see, hear, feel, etc.?
* How many senses do you have? What are they?
* Why is this topic covered in psychology?

Email your ideas to me

Be prepared to discuss in class

This assignment should be completed on the first day of class and on the last, or second-to-last. In order to highlight the student’s change in assumptions regarding the meanings of perception, ask that they define and discuss the above questions regarding the senses and psychology. Have the students email you their answers, and keep until the end of the course.

At the end of the quarter or semester, ask the same questions, then give the original answers back, and then compare the changes in ideas. This is an opportunity for students to share their subjective experience of Sensation and Perception, and everyday applications.

The second question asks that students comprehend the concepts presented in the class in a larger framework, e.g., what is psychology? To understand why Sensation and Perception are part of psychology, an understanding of the possibility of the interpretive nature of sensation needs to be understood.

**Assignment 2**

This question may be assigned as homework, for in-class group discussion, or discussed in a class forum:

Complete the following exercise:

* Follow the instructions for Aristotle’s Illusion from [ISLE 1.5](http://isle.hanover.edu/Ch01Intro/Ch01Aristotle.html).
* Describe your experience (either for a forum or other method of write-up).
* Why do you think this illusion occurs?

Email your ideas to me

Be prepared to discuss in class

**Assignment 3**

This question may be assigned as homework, for in-class group discussion, or discussed in a class forum:

Think of a time when your senses completed an experience for another one of your senses, based on previous experiences, e.g., visualizing what someone may be eating based on what your sense of smell perceives. Imagining what pizza looks like based on the aroma, for example, is pretty easy. Can you think of an evolutionary advantage to your senses working together? Include an example for all of the senses that you have learned about in Chapter 1.

Email your ideas to me

Be prepared to discuss in class

**Assignment 4**

This question may be assigned as homework, for in-class group discussion, or discussed in a class forum:

Think of an example of artificial intelligence (A.I.) in your life today. (Hint: if you have a smartphone, smart home, or any other interactional device, you have A.I.) Keep a written record of five questions and answers that A.I. technology can handle. Why do you think there are limits? Write down what process you think it mimics, and what the limitations seem to be.

Email your ideas to me

Be prepared to discuss in class

**Assignment 5**

This question may be assigned as homework, for in-class group discussion, or discussed in a class forum:

Have the class separate into groups of 3–5 students. Think about cognitive penetration and how emotional factors can influence how you perceive things. From the examples of studies cited in Chapter 1--including how your knowledge of an object’s color influences your perception of colors that match it, and how a heavy backpack makes a steep hill seem steeper--think of examples that you have experienced where your perception of an experience was influenced. The practical application of cognitive penetration is in car collision research. Can you think of other examples where sensory input and your brain calculating the speed and impact of objects occur? For example, what sports, occupations, or hobbies do you use your “time to collision” sense?

Email your ideas to me

Be prepared to discuss in class