

Cyber Psych Links for

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY: WITH SPOTLIGHTS ON DIVERSITY

Chapter 3

CONCEPTS RELATED TO ALL SENSORY PROCESSES (pp. 83-86)

Sensory psychology deals with how each of our many senses take stimuli from the environment and convert those stimuli into information that can be processed by the central nervous system—a process is called **transduction**. Chapter Three looks at each of the senses, and asks about how physical stimuli are transduced into neural impulses. There also are issues that are relevant for all of the senses—and websites devoted to **psychophysics** and **adaptation**.

<http://www.psychophysics.org>

A site with everything you would want to know about psychophysics—the study of the relationship between the physical characteristics of stimuli and the psychological experiences they produce.

<http://www.candletech.com/comparingscentthrow.htm>

A commercial website—about candles. A concern of candle-makers is what they call “scent throw”—or, *from how far away and for how long can I smell this candle?* Even candle-makers need to know about psychophysics.

<http://www.umich.edu/~onebook/pages/frames/psychF.html>

A site providing a great set of links to everything you would want to know about subliminal (below-threshold) perception.

VISION (pp. 87-96)

Clearly, we know more about the sense of vision than we do any other sense. Scientists have been studying vision for longer than they have the other senses, and vision is obviously a significantly important sense by which most of us learn about the world around us.

<http://www.colormatters.com>

If you should think that color does not matter, visit this website. Please also click on the link “Color & Science.”

<http://www.science.howstuffworks.com/eye2.htm>

The concern here is the human eye. You’ll find subsections on perceiving light, color vision, and color blindness—brief, yet adequately detailed.

<http://www.allaboutvision.com>

A commercial site, really about “eye care products and services,” but some good stuff—check out the “Resources” link.

http://www.accessexcellence.org/AE/AEC/CC/vision_background.html

From the National Health Museum; do click on “Activities” at the bottom.

<http://www.vision3d.com>

A fun—and informative—site on seeing in three dimensions.

<http://www.photo.net/photo/edscott/vis00010.htm>

A well-done, simple summary of color vision.

AUDITION: THE SENSE OF HEARING (pp. 98-101)

It certainly is true that we learn a lot about our environments through our sense of vision. It also is true that the quality of experience, even the quality of life is a reflection of the input from our other senses. Audition and the other senses do remain less well understood than vision, but that gap of knowledge is rapidly closing.

<http://hes.ucf.k12.pa.us/gclaypo/senses/hearing.html>

A bit childish, and it does take some clicking around, but this is a great site on hearing, sight, smell, touch, and taste.

<http://www1.omi.tulane.edu/departments/pathology/fermin/Hearing.html>

An excellent site on hearing, with balance/equilibrium just a click away.

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/hearing.html>

Good ol' Neuroscience for Kids – on hearing.

<http://ctl.augie.edu/perry/ear/hearmechn.htm>

Cute—a “Virtual Tour of the Ear.”

<http://www.hearinglossweb.com>

This site is home to many articles and insights, and is regularly updated.

THE OTHER SENSES (pp. 102-108)

Calling the senses of taste, smell, touch, location/position, and pain “minor senses” (as some have), hardly seems fair. Yes, we take these sense for granted, but reflect for a moment on the sense of smell of a perfume maker, the sense of taste of a great chef, the sense of touch of a masseuse, the sense of balance of a tightrope walker, the sense of pain of an accident victim. The minor senses can play a major role.

<http://www.hhmi.org/senses>

“Seeing, Hearing, and Smelling the World” from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

<http://www.tasteandsmell.com>

The name says most of it—but the site is on the loss of the chemical senses.

<http://www.cf.ac.uk/biosi/staff/jacob/teaching/sensory/olfact1.html>

An expansive tutorial on the sense of smell.

<http://www.senseofsmell.org>

An unbelievable site of the “Sense of Smell Institute.”

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/tasty.html>

Neuroscience for Kids on taste—outstanding!

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/chtouch.html>

Why not—it’s great!

<http://www.painonline.org/index.htm>

Yes, it’s a commercial site, but with many interesting links.

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/pain.html>

Another winner. Be sure to note all of the excellent links to other sites at the bottom of this page.

PAYING ATTENTION: A PROCESS OF SELECTION (pp. 109-112)

As we know, **perception** is a cognitive process that involves selecting (attending to) and organizing the stimulus world that is presented to us by our senses. It is a much more cognitive process than a physiological one. If you would like to search the Internet on your own, you are likely to be rewarded, but please do beware of the many commercial websites that manage to have “perception” somewhere in their titles.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attention>

It is quite brief, but provides a few interesting links to other sites.

<http://add.org>

These two websites are devoted to the problem—all too common—of disordered , generally ADD, or “attention deficit disorder.”

<http://www.studygs.net/classr.htm>

A relevant discussion: “Paying attention in the classroom.”

http://www.ciadvertising.org/student_account/fall_01/adv38

[2j/howardmo/selectiveperception.html](http://www.ciadvertising.org/student_account/fall_01/adv38)

A great essay—with a slant toward advertising.

<http://www.age-of-the->

[sage.org/psychology/social/hastorf_cantril_saw_game.html](http://www.age-of-the-sage.org/psychology/social/hastorf_cantril_saw_game.html)

A college football game and a classic study of perceptual selectivity.

ORGANIZING OUR PERCEPTUAL WORLD (pp. 113-117)

Once the bits and pieces of our sensory experience are selected, they are organized into meaningful wholes, or **gestalts**. We do not, after all, see minute bits of light, shade, and color. We see horses and trees and college professors. We do not hear the individual sounds of speech. We hear words and phrases and complete sentences.

<http://psy.ed.asu.edu/~classics/Wertheimer/Forms/forms.htm>

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Max Wertheimer is often referred to as the father of Gestalt psychology. Here is a 1923 paper by Wertheimer on perceptual organization. It is surprisingly readable and contains many great examples, several of which are commonly found in today's textbooks.

<http://www.webrenovators.com/psych/GestaltPsychology.htm>

[m](#)

A brief piece on Gestalt psychology and perceptual organization.

PERCEIVING DEPTH AND DISTANCE (pp. 117-120)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4135233.stm>

Why not to drink and drive—depth perception.

<http://webvision.med.utah.edu/KallDepth.html>

Great examples of the cues for the perception of depth and distance.

<http://www.grand-illusions.com>

Of the websites devoted to illusions, most are very commercial. This one is busy trying to sell you things, but if you practice good, focused attention you will find some excellent examples of illusions at this Internet address.