PSYC 158 – Perception, Section 01  
Spring 2011 Course Syllabus  
San Jose State University

Instructor: Dr. Cary S. Feria  
Office Location: DMH (Dudley Moorhead Hall), Room 312  
Telephone: (408) 924-5620  
Email: cary.feria@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Monday 9:45-10:30am, 5:00-5:30pm, Tuesday 4:15-5:30pm, Wednesday 9:45-10:30am, 5:00-5:30pm, and Thursday 4:15-5:30pm  
You are welcome to schedule an appointment with me for a different time, if these times don’t fit your schedule. Also, I’m often in my office at other times, and you’re welcome to stop by!

Class Days/Time: Tuesday, Thursday 3:00-4:15pm  
Classroom: DMH 353  
Course Section: 01  
Preferred method of contact: in person!

Required textbook:  

Course Description:  
Our senses are the source of all of our experiences and knowledge about the outside world. Seeing the expression on a loved one’s face, hearing your favorite song, and tasting a delicious meal are all only possible because of your sensory and perceptual processes. In this course we will ask “How do we know about the world around us?” and “Why does the world appear the way it does?” We will explore the major findings and theories in relation to these questions, as well as the experimental methods used to research them. We will cover the biology of the human body and brain that makes perceptual processing possible, and examine the relationship between the physical world and our perceptual experiences. This course will focus most on the sense of vision, but will cover some other senses, too.

Course Objectives:  
- To know the biological parts of the sensory systems, and the functions of those parts.  
- To understand how our senses and perceptual processes work, and what factors affect our perceptions.  
- To understand the experimental methods that are used to study sensation and perception.  
- To know how to use experimental evidence as a tool for critically assessing theories about perception.  
- To help students improve their ability to present scientific findings in writing.  
- To inspire interest in perception research.

Course Requirements:  

Exams:  
There will be 3 exams. Exams will cover material from class and the textbook. Exams will be mostly multiple-choice, but may also include short-answer and diagrams. Exams are closed-book and closed-notes. The final exam will be cumulative. A study guide will be given out before each exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Material Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Thurs. Feb. 24</td>
<td>Ch. 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Thurs. Apr. 7</td>
<td>Ch. 5, 6, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Tues. May 24 (2:45-5:00pm)</td>
<td>Ch. 9-14 and all previous material</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Lab Reports:  
Some days in class, you will perform lab activities giving you hands-on experience with the type of research that is carried out in the field of sensation and perception. Because each lab report requires participation in the lab activity,
attendance is mandatory. If you are absent on the day of a lab activity, you cannot receive credit for the assigned work from that day. In some cases, you may also be responsible for completing some of the data collection outside of class time. Each lab activity will include instructions about the product (calculations, graphing, write-up, etc.) that should be turned in.

There will be 9 lab activities for which you will be expected to write lab reports. Your two lowest scoring lab reports will not count toward your grade, so 7 lab reports will count toward your grade. You will lose 10% of the point value of a lab report for each day it is late. Lab reports will be turned in by each student individually.

### Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (total)</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Reports (total)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 x 10 points each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Final course grades will be based on the scale below:

- **A+**  ≥ 97%
- **A**   93-96%
- **A-**  90-92%
- **B+**  87-89%
- **B**   83-86%
- **B-**  80-82%
- **C+**  77-79%
- **C**   73-76%
- **C-**  70-72%
- **D+**  67-69%
- **D**   63-66%
- **D-**  60-62%
- **F**   < 60%

### Extra Credit Opportunities:

(a) **Bonus Quizzes**

There will be an optional bonus quiz at the end of many class periods. The bonus quizzes are designed to help you and me evaluate your progress on understanding the material. They may cover any material from class or the book. Each bonus quiz will contain 3 questions. If you get at least 2 of the questions correct, you will receive 1 bonus point! You may be able to earn a maximum of 10 bonus points through the quizzes.

(b) **Research Review Paper**

You may also choose to write a research review paper (4-6 pages) on a topic of interest to you for extra credit. The paper should focus on a specific topic within sensation and perception. The paper should discuss at least 6 references, at least 5 of which must be articles from scientific research journals. If you choose to write a paper, you need to have your topic approved by me no later than Tuesday April 26. Depending on the quality of the paper, you may receive up to 10 bonus points. The paper must be submitted to turnitin.com (a website that checks for plagiarism) as well as turning in a printed copy to me. The paper must be turned in before the final exam.

### Desire2Learn (D2L):

Lecture slides, exam grades, and other materials will be posted on the course D2L website. Please do not email me through D2L – email me at cary.feria@sjsu.edu instead.

### Getting Help:

If you are having difficulties with any aspect of this course, please come to my office hours, and I will do my best to help you. If you are unable to come to my office hours, you can contact me to make an appointment for a different time. If you have just a short question, you also can send it to me by e-mail.

### Attendance:

**Missed Classes.** If you are absent, you should consult a classmate to get the lecture notes and to find out about any announcements made in class.

**Missed Exams.** I strongly discourage make-up exams. No make-up exams will be given unless the student presents a valid excuse. I reserve the right to decide if the excuse is valid. I will be more likely to allow you to make up an exam if you make every effort possible to contact me before the scheduled date of the exam. The fastest way to contact me is often by e-mail.
Note:
The procedures and schedule in this course syllabus are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

Class Contacts
Name:__________________________________  Name:__________________________________
Phone number:___________________________  Phone number:___________________________
E-mail:_________________________________  E-mail:_______________________________

Name:__________________________________
Phone number:___________________________
E-mail:_________________________________

Additional Points:
- Please be certain to turn off all cell phones, pagers, and any other devices that produce distraction prior to entering the classroom.
- If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly and with a minimum of distraction.
- You are responsible for understanding the dates, policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, fee payment, withdrawal and so forth. These are listed under: http://info.sjsu.edu/home/schedules.html.

Disability:
SJSU complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with your instructor as soon as possible, or speak with your instructor during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Academic integrity:
The Office of Judicial Affairs at SJSU has a documented Academic Integrity statement via Academic Senate Policy Recommendation S04-12. “Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at’’ http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf.
Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university’s reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

Cheating:
At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to: Copying in part or in whole, from another’s test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy. Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

Plagiarism:
At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one’s own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another’s work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one’s own work; and representing another’s artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one’s own.

The following URL will take you to the SJSU library’s plagiarism tutorial. If you have not yet completed this, it is worth your while to do so. http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm