Instructor Dr. Collin Green
Office Location DMH 310
Telephone 408.924.5631 †
Email collin.green@sjsu.edu ‡
Office Hours Wednesdays 9:00–10:00 pm, or by appointment
Course Days/Time Wednesdays 6:00–8:45 pm
Classroom DMH 355

† Office phone is the slowest and least reliable way to reach me. I will rarely answer my office phone and will probably not check voicemail regularly. You might be better off mailing me a letter.
‡ Email is the fastest and most reliable way to reach me. On a weekday, I will usually reply to email within a few hours, and often within a few minutes. On a weekend or evening, allow more time for a response.

COURSE WEB PAGE
Announcements and important information, including the syllabus, assignment handouts, and supplemental readings will be posted on the web at the following site: https://sites.google.com/a/sjsu.edu/sjsu_psyc158_green/. Please make sure you can access the above site.

PREREQUISITE COURSES
PSYC 001 (General Psychology) is a prerequisite for this course. This course will be easier if you have taken a statistics course (e.g., STAT 095) and a research methods course (e.g., PSYC 120), but these courses are not required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
How do humans and other animals obtain knowledge about the world? It is easy to take perception for granted, but complex processes (only partially understood) underlie our ability to understand the world by seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling it. This is not because the scientific study of sensation and perception is new, however. In fact, the study of perception is one of the oldest continuing scientific traditions in psychology. Currently, perception is a central topic not only in psychology, but also in cognitive science, computer science, and neuroscience. Scientists approach the study of perception by seeking to discover lawful relations between perceptual experiences and the physical world. We seek to understand the computational processes involved in perception, as well as the neural mechanisms that support those processes. In this course, we will discuss fundamental problems in perception (primarily vision), and learn about techniques that are applied in attempts to solve these problems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
After taking this course, students should be able to:
• Identify and discuss fundamental problems in sensation and perception
• Describe and apply different approaches to solving those problems
• Describe the basic physiological/neural mechanisms that underlie perceptual systems
• Describe the psychological processes that support perception
• Describe how perceptual systems support everyday, elementary activities
REQUIRED READINGS

Textbook The required textbook for this course is:


The textbook is available in the Spartan Bookstore. You may also be able to obtain the textbook from online booksellers. Used versions of the text, ebook reader editions, and online access are all available for this text. The supplements to the textbook available from the publisher (a CD-ROM) is not required for the course, but may be useful in helping you understand the readings. Finally, there are several older editions of this text that may be adequate for this course, however, we will work from the 8th edition and you are responsible for all the content covered in the 8th edition of the text.

Other Readings In support of some lectures and to provide topics for writing assignments, additional readings (articles, chapters, etc.) will be required. The instructor will provide these readings in class or online (or both).

Lectures may cover material that is not in the textbook or other reading materials. Exams may draw material from the text, from lectures, or from supplemental readings provided by the instructor (everything is “fair game”).

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

Ideally, you will come to class to learn and to contribute to the learning of your peers through your participation in class activities and discussion. At the least, you must not interfere with the conduct of class or other students’ opportunity to learn. For example, if you enter or exit the class in the midst of lecture, do it quietly and without disrupting others; if you bring a cell phone or other electronic devices to class, ensure that they are completely silenced or turned off for the duration of the lecture. In general, be respectful of the instructor and your fellow students in your words, your actions, and the way you present yourself in class.

ADDING & DROPPING

In accordance with the San Jose State University calendar for Spring term 2012, the last day to drop this class without a “W” is Monday, February 6, 2012. The last day to add this class is Monday February 13, 2012; Add codes can be obtained from the instructor.

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures surrounding adding and dropping courses, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the Spring 2012 Course Catalog section on Policies (http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html). Add and drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page, which is available at (http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING POLICY

There are 200 points available to be earned in this course, distributed as follows:

• Participation ………………………………………………………………………………… 20 points (10%)
• Paper………………………………………………………………………………………… 30 points (15%)
• Exams (4 worth 50 points each, lowest score dropped)………………………… 150 points (75%)

The final (letter) grades for this course will be assigned based on a curve. This means that no letter grades will be assigned to individual assignments. Typically, students whose overall performance is
close to the mean for the class will receive a low B or high C in the course. The final curve will be no harsher than a standard scale (i.e., 90%+ = A, 80-89% = B, etc.; the curve will not hurt your grade, but may improve it).

Participation  Attendance is not required and will not affect your grade. However, participation does count, and 20 points (10% of your grade) will depend on your contributions to in-class discussions, your interaction with the instructor in office hours or via email, and your general level of engagement with the class. To maximize your participation grade you should attend class; while in class, you should ask questions, share (relevant) comments, and help maintain an open and respectful environment for discussion and learning. Students who clearly want to learn and make an effort to do so will be rewarded with high marks for participation.

Paper  There will be one paper assignment in this class, worth 30 points (15% of your grade). The details of this assignments will be made available in a separate handout later in the term. A hard (printed) copy of the paper must be handed in during class on the due date. If you must submit your paper electronically, and/or at some time prior to the due date, arrangements to do so should be made directly with the instructor well in advance of the due date. Papers submitted after the due date will be penalized three (3) points for each day late (i.e., an assignment turned in ten days late will be worth zero points regardless of its quality). Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Exams  There will be four in-class exams, each worth 50 points. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped, so exams will count for a total of 150 points (75% of your grade). Exams will be composed of multiple-choice questions and will be non-cumulative (i.e., they will only include material covered in the most recent segment of the course). All exams will be open-note and closed-book: during examination, you will be allowed to refer to your own notes, but not to the textbook, supplemental readings, or other materials that you did not produce yourself (lecture slides provided by the instructor excepted). You may not use copies of old exams from this or any other course during examination. However, you may take notes from any source for use on exams. No electronic devices (cell phones, PDAs, music players, laptops, calculators, etc.) may be used during examinations. Bring a scantron form (Form 882) and a #2 pencil to exam sessions.

Exam dates are on the syllabus. If you think you cannot attend an exam on the scheduled date, it is your responsibility to arrange an alternative exam date with the instructor. You must make such arrangements well in advance of the exam date (and as soon as possible). Alternative arrangements will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances. (Of course, accommodations for students with a disability are available through the Disability Resource Center; the instructor will work with you and the DRC to make appropriate arrangements).

OTHER POLICIES

Appealing Assignment Grades (Requesting Regrading)  The instructor will gladly explain or review the grade you receive on any assignment. If you would like an assignment regraded, you must make your request in writing within two weeks after the assignment is returned. Your written request must specify which parts of the assignment you feel have been incorrectly graded and why you believe the existing grade to be incorrect. You must submit the original assignment (not a copy) with your request. The instructor will determine which parts of the assignment will be regraded (if any). When you make a request for regrading you should understand that your grade may be raised or lowered during regrading.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty  Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.
Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS
All students can do a some simple things to maximize their learning and grade in this (or any) course:

- Read and understand this syllabus
- Obtain the textbook and supplementary materials and read them as directed
- Download and review lecture slides prior to class; print them to use for note-taking
- Attend class and take complete and legible notes
- Ask questions and participate in discussions during class
- Get help in office hours, appointments, or via email
- Study and review all relevant materials in preparation for exams
- Come to exams prepared (studied, rested, and with the correct materials)
- Be sure to read and understand all instructions for assignments and exams
- Complete all assignments with care and turn them in on time
- Keep track of your scores and (promptly) talk with the instructor or get help if you fall behind

Students may also increase their success in this course by taking advantage of resources made available by the University, as below.

Student Technology Resources Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

Learning Assistance Resource Center The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit the LARC website for more information at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Writing Center The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.
Peer Mentor Center  The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/

### PSYC 158: Perception; Section 02 — Spring 2012

#### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Introduction to Perception</td>
<td>-none-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course organization and policies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>The Psychophysical Approach</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 1 (pp. 3-22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Signal Detection Theory and Methods</td>
<td>Text: Appendix (pp. 401-406)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Neural Physiology</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 2 (pp. 23-42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Visual System</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 3 (pp. 43-72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
<td>-none-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Low- and High-Level Visual Processing</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 4 (pp. 73-98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 29</td>
<td>Object Perception</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 5 (pp. 99-132)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>Scene Perception and Visual Attention</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 6 (pp. 133-154)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 14</td>
<td>EXAM 2</td>
<td>-none-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper assigned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Color Perception</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 9 (pp. 201-228)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>NO CLASS: Spring Break</td>
<td>-none-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 4</td>
<td>Depth (and Size) Perception</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 10 (pp. 229-258)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>Motion Perception</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 8 (pp. 177-200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perception and Action</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 7 (pp. 155-176)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>EXAM 3</td>
<td>-none-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>The Auditory System</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 11 (pp. 259-290)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auditory Perception</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 12 (pp. 291-310)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Perceptual Development</td>
<td>Text: Ch. 16 (pp. 379-400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Paper DUE in class</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture Topic TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21*</td>
<td>EXAM 4</td>
<td>-none-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Final exam schedule applies: EXAM 4 will take place Monday, May 21 from 5:15 pm to 7:30 pm in the usual location (DMH 355)*

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor. All changes will be announced in class and/or by e-mail.