San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 158, Title, Sec. 02
Spring 2013

Instructor: Dr. Collin Green
Office Location: DMH 310
Telephone: 408.924.5631 (see below)
Email: collin.green@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 8:45-9:45pm (immediately after class), or by appt.
Class Days/Time: Wednesdays 6:00-8:45pm
Classroom: DMH 359
Prerequisites: Psyc 001

Course Web Page
Announcements and important information, including the syllabus, lecture slides, assignment handouts, and any 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 that site.

Communicating With the Instructor
Email (collin.green@sjsu.edu) 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 a bit more time for a response. I spend little or no time in my SJSU office, so it is not practical for you to find me there unless you’ve arranged to meet me ahead of time. Accordingly, my SJSU office phone is a slow and unreliable way to reach me. I will rarely answer my office phone and will probably not check voicemail regularly. You would be better off mailing me a letter than you would be calling my SJSU office.

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.

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will 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

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)
Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements…

PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology – Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

PLO4 – Application of Psychology – Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

PLO5 – Values in Psychology – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
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”).

**Definition of a Credit Hour**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

As an example, the expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150-minutes of direct faculty instruction and six hours of out-of-class student work each week.

**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.

**Recording of Class Lectures**

You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. This permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only.

**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located 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 and Grading Policy**

There are 200 points available to be earned in this course and 5 points of extra credit (XC), distributed as follows:
• Participation
  20 points (10%)
• Writing Assignments (3 @ 10 points each, lowest score dropped)
  20 points (10%)
• Exams (4 @ 50 points each, lowest score dropped)
  150 points (75%)
• Quizzes/Extra credit (3 @ 5 points each, the 3rd is optional/XC)
  10+ points (5% +)

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.; i.e., 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. Also, note that if you do not attend class, you may miss a quiz (see below).

Writing Assignments

There will be three short writing assignments, each worth 10 points. The lowest of your three writing assignment grades will be dropped, so writing assignments will count for a total of 20 points (10% of your grade). The details of these assignments will be made available in separate handouts later in the term. In every case, a hard (printed) copy of the assignment must be handed in during class on the due date. If you must submit a written assignment 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. Writing assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized two (2) points for each day late (e.g., an assignment turned in five days late would be worth zero points, regardless of its quality). Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances (e.g., documented family or medical emergency).

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 (e.g., 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).

**Quizzes**

There will be three quizzes held during class. Quizzes will be pass/fail. If you pass, you’ll receive 5 points; if you fail you’ll receive zero points. Quizzes will count for a total of 10 points (5%) of your grade, and if you take all three, the third quiz will count as extra credit (providing 2.5% XC to those that pass it). Quizzes dates will not be announced ahead of time. Quizzes will not be held on exam days. Quizzes cannot be made up or taken ahead of time. Quizzes will be given only at the beginning of the class period. No other extra assignments or extra credit opportunities will be offered in this course.

**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.

**University Policies**

**Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University’s Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) 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.
## Table 1 Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Introduction to Perception Course organization and policies</td>
<td>-none-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>The Psychophysical Approach Signal Detection Theory and Methods</td>
<td>Text Ch. 1 (pp. 3-22)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Text Appendix (pp. 401-406)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Neural Physiology The Visual System</td>
<td>Text Ch. 2 (pp. 23-42)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Text Ch. 3 (pp 43-72)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 1</strong></td>
<td>-none-</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Low- and High-Level Visual Processing</td>
<td>Text Ch. 4 (pp. 73-98)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Object Perception</td>
<td>Text Ch. 5 (pp. 99-132)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Scene Perception and Visual Attention Writing Assignment #1 DUE</td>
<td>Text Ch. 6 (pp. 133-154)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 2</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Color Perception</td>
<td>Text Ch. 9 (pp. 201-228)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 27</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS, Spring Break</strong></td>
<td>-none-</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
<td>Depth and Size Perception</td>
<td>Text Ch. 10 (pp. 229-258)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>Motion Perception Perception and Action Writing Assignment #2 DUE</td>
<td>Text Ch. 8 (pp.177-200)</td>
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<td>Text Ch. 7 (pp. 155-176)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 17</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 3</strong></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>The Auditory System Auditory Perception</td>
<td>Text Ch. 11 (pp. 259-290)</td>
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<td>Text Ch. 12 (pp. 291-310)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Perceptual Development</td>
<td>Text Ch. 16 (pp. 379-400)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Lecture Topic TBD Writing Assignment #3 DUE</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 4; Final Exam Schedule Applies—Exam 4 is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 from 5:15pm to 7:30pm in the usual classroom.</strong></td>
<td>-none-</td>
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*This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor. All changes will be announced in class and/or by e-mail.*