San José State University  
Department of Psychology

PSYC 158 – Perception, Section 02  
Fall 2015 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Cary S. Feria  
Office Location: DMH (Dudley Moorhead Hall), Room 312  
Telephone: (408) 924-5620  
Email: cary.feria@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:45am -12:10pm, 2:45-3:10pm; Thursday 11:45am -12:10pm, 2:45-3:10pm  
You are welcome to schedule an appointment with me for a different time, if you are unable to make these times.

Class Days/Time: Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-2:45pm  
Classroom: ENG 303  
Course Section: 02

Course Description

*San José State University Course Catalog Description:* Empirical and theoretical approaches to the psychology of perception with an emphasis on vision. Topics include the perception of form, color, depth and motion as well as the effects of attention and experience. Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

*Specific 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 Goals and Learning Objectives

*Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1 – know the biological parts of the sensory systems, and the functions of those parts.  
CLO2 – understand how our senses and perceptual processes work, and what factors affect our perceptions.  
CLO3 – understand the experimental methods that are used to study sensation and perception.  
CLO4 – use experimental evidence as a tool for critically assessing theories about perception.

Additional course objectives:

– To help students improve their ability to present scientific findings in writing.
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

ISBN number: 978-1-60535-211-4

Course Requirements and Assignments

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. (aligned with CLO 1, 2, 3; PLO 1, 2)

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 8 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 6 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. (aligned with CLO 2, 3, 4; PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Grading Policy

Exams (total) 440 points
Exam 1 110
Exam 2 130
Final Exam 200
Lab Reports (total) 60 points
6 x 10 points each
Total 500 points

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 Thursday November 12. Depending on the quality of the paper, you may receive up to 8 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.

Classroom Protocol

Canvas
Lecture slides, exam grades, and other materials will be posted on the course Canvas website. Please do not email me through Canvas – 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.

Class Courtesy
- Cell phones are not permitted in class. Please turn off your cell phone and put it away in your backpack prior to entering the classroom.
- If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly and with a minimum of distraction.
**Cell Phone/Exam/Quiz Policy**

- Students cannot have any cell phones or other electronics out in the classroom when an exam or quiz is being given. Students must keep their cell phone/electronics turned off or in silent mode, and inside their backpack.
- If a student has a cell phone or other electronics out when an exam/quiz is being given, they will receive a grade of zero on the exam/quiz.
- Even after the student has handed in their exam/quiz, they still cannot have a cell phone/electronics out in the classroom. Students must wait until after they leave the classroom to take out cell phones/electronics.
- There will be no discussion of what the student was doing with the cell phone/electronics, the student will simply receive a grade of zero.

**Note**

The procedures and schedule in this course syllabus are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

**University Policies**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) for more details.

**General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student**

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf). More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog at [http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html). In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

**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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The Late Drop Policy is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/](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/](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/).

**Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

University Policy S12-7, [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
• “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

**Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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/](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 Integrity 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) to establish a record of your disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University’s continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.
# Course Schedule

**PSYC 158 – Perception, Section 02, Fall 2015**

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Reading due dates and topic dates are approximate. I will announce any changes of exam dates in class and by email.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thu. 8/20</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tue. 8/25</td>
<td>Research Methods in Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 8/27</td>
<td>The Eye</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tue. 9/1</td>
<td>The Eye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 9/3</td>
<td>The Eye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tue. 9/8</td>
<td>Vision and the Brain</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 9/10</td>
<td>Object Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue. 9/15</td>
<td>Object Perception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 9/17</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tue. 9/22</td>
<td>Color Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 9/24</td>
<td>Color Perception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tue. 9/29</td>
<td>Color Perception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 10/1</td>
<td>Color Perception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tue. 10/6</td>
<td>Seeing a 3D World</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 10/8</td>
<td>Seeing a 3D World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tue. 10/13</td>
<td>Seeing a 3D World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 10/15</td>
<td>Visual Attention</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tue. 10/20</td>
<td>Visual Attention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 10/22</td>
<td>Visual Attention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tue. 10/27</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 10/29</td>
<td>Visual Attention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tue. 11/3</td>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>Ch. 9-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 11/5</td>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tue. 11/10</td>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 11/12</td>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tue. 11/17</td>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>Ch. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 11/19</td>
<td>Touch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tue. 11/24</td>
<td>Touch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 11/26</td>
<td><em>Holiday -- No class</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tue. 12/1</td>
<td>Taste</td>
<td>Ch. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 12/3</td>
<td>Taste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tue. 12/8</td>
<td>Taste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Thu. 12/10</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam (12:15-2:30pm) in ENG 303</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>