San José State University  
Psychology Department  
Psy 135, 26689, Cognition, Sec 03, SPRING 2016

Instructor: Steven Macramalla
Office Location: DMH 230
Telephone: 831-234-8451
Email: steven.macramalla@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TuTh 12:00PM – 1:30PM
Class Days/Time: TuTh 10:30AM - 11:45AM
Classroom: DMH 355
Prerequisites: Psych 001

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/steven.macramalla or accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

Course Description
We are examining how the brain processes information and generates the illusion of your reality. This class will reinforce basic scientific concepts as we delve into new territory of vision, language, memory, attention and other domains of cognitive psychology.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
The objective is to distinguish fundamental principles of cognitive function in vision, attention, memory and language.

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

Navigate and discriminate the scientific literature in cognitive psychology in areas relevant to their concerns.
Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Dawn McBride, J.C. Cutting  *Cognitive Psychology Theory, Process, and Methodology*

V.S. Ramachandran  *Phantoms in the Brain*

Class website:  http://www.sjsu.edu/people/steven.macramalla/courses/c1/

Classroom Protocol

1. Be kind courteous to each other – the person sitting next to you may be a future customer, partner or spouse. Be attentive and courteous when your classmates speak or ask questions.

2. Do not distract other students with chit-chat, cell phones, pagers, etc. TURN OFF YOUR PHONES. Please refrain from using your laptop for anything unrelated to class.

3. You are expected to attend all class meetings and read the book prior to class as the exams cover material exclusively from either the class or the book. There will be many in-class activities that will depend on a sufficient sample for their success. Please, check the syllabus and mark your calendars now for important dates.

4. Please arrive on time and stay for the whole class. In the event you must, please take your seat or leave with the least amount of disruption for the class.

5. Office hours are not a replacement for reading the text and attending class. If you miss class, get notes from at least two other students.

6. I am responsive to levels of participation from students. If you are the type of person who asks a lot of questions with tangential stories or that draws more attention to the question than to the material in the class and is not really relevant or of benefit to other students, I will ask you to curb your enthusiasm and hold your question for after class. If you are the type of person who hides in the corner, wearing similarly colored clothes as the desk for better camouflaging, I will ask you questions in an effort to encourage your participation.

7. Cheating will not be tolerated in any form. Period.

8. Be kind and respectful to your professor. Please call me ‘Sir’, ‘Professor’, or ‘Dr. Macramalla’, but not ‘Steve’, ‘Steven’, ‘Dude’, ‘Buddy’ or “Hey! You!” Do not stop me in the middle of a lecture to ask if there will be an assignment due next class session. Hold those kinds of questions to the end of class ask them before we get started on lecture.

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**

**GRADING**

Three exams 50 pts each…………150 pts
Presentation…………………………20 pts
Paper …………………………….100 pts
Total ……………………………...275 pts

**Group Project** You will form groups of 4-6, pick a topic from the Project Guide, relating it to cognitive psychology. Each Project consists of a topic which you as team members will sub-divide into several sub-topics. Each member will write one paper and make a 10-15 minute presentation on a day during one of the three last lecture weeks.

You will be working in teams, this is solid practice to reflect the reality of today’s working world. The papers are based on themes detailed in the Project Guide. Each person will write a section/chapter of the paper, 6-8 pages in length, double-spaced, focusing on one sub-topic as well as integrating it within the overall structure of the project. ALL PAPERS are due on Tuesday April 26.

You will be graded on the merit of your paper. To ensure fair work-share, team members will submit, independently of the paper, a sheet with their team-members names and a simple rating on a scale of 1-3 of the amount of work done by the partner along with a comment if necessary: 1(significantly smaller share, lower grade or failing grade), 2 (Equal share), 3 (over 50% of the work, should get a higher grade than the rest of us). My approach to this is **you rise together, but sink alone**. Teams that have obviously integrated material together will earn additional points, but members who are designated as not having contributed sufficiently will not be awarded those points.

I will reward groups that present well integrated papers by adding up to 4 points on each paper (enough to raise your grade a notch). I use the feedback given by peers to selectively lower the grade of an INDIVIDUAL paper.

Your grade for this project will reflect the quality of the paper (APA format) as well as that of the presentation (Power Point is optional but will not add to the grade). How you divide the work is up to you. But you want to start talking about it early.

**Exams** There will be two in-class exams and the final exam, each is composed of 50 (fifty) multiple-choice questions. The exams will be non-cumulative (they will only include material covered in the most recent segment of the course). Exams will rely heavily on the textbook, and I will be providing a study guide for it. I am teaching what
I know, which partially overlaps with the textbook. The onus is on you to have read the text in advance and integrate it with the material in class. All exams will be closed book and closed notes. No electronic devices (cell phones, PDAs, laptops, calculators, etc.) may be used during examinations.

**Course Grading Scale (% of Total Points):**

- A+ 95-100%
- B+ 79-82%
- C+ 67-69%
- D+ 57-59%
- F<50%

- A 90-94%
- B 75-78%
- C 63-66%
- D 52-56%

- A- 83-91%
- B- 70-74%
- C- 60-62%
- D- 50-51%

**University Policies**

**Academic integrity**
Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require 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.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

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 in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 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.

**Learning Assistance Resource Center (Optional)**
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 motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising,
learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located 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/

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The schedule is subject to change. Notification will be by email and class announcement.

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<thead>
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | Jan 28   | Welcome & Logistics Introduction  
McBride & Cutting Chap. 1  
Rama Chap 1 & 2             |
| 2    | Feb 2-4  | McBride & Cutting Chap. 2 Neuro  
Rama Chap 3                  |
| 3    | Feb 9-11 | McBride & Cutting Chap. 3 Visual Perception  
Rama Chap 4                 |
| 4    | Feb 16-18| McBride & Cutting Chap. 3 Visual Perception  
Rama Chapter 5               |
| 5    | Feb 23-25| EXAM I & CITATIONS DUE & WORKSHOP Attention  
McBride & Cutting Chap. 4  
Rama Chap 6, 7               |
<p>| 6    | March 1-3|                                                                |</p>
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<th>Week</th>
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<td>7</td>
<td>March 8-10</td>
<td>Memory I</td>
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<td>McBride &amp; Cutting Chap. 6</td>
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<td>McBride &amp; Cutting Chap. 5</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>March 15-17</td>
<td>Memory II</td>
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<td>McBride &amp; Cutting Chap. 7</td>
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<td>Rama Chap 8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>March 22-24</td>
<td>EXAM II &amp; BREAKDOWN 2 PAPERS &amp;WORKSHOP</td>
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<td>March 29-31</td>
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<td>April 5-7</td>
<td>Language</td>
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<td>McBride &amp; Cutting Chap. 9</td>
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<td>Rama Chapter 9-10</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>April 12-14</td>
<td>Problem Solving &amp; Decision Making</td>
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<td>McBride &amp; Cutting Chap. 11, 12</td>
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<td>Rama Chap 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>April 19-21</td>
<td>Group Project In-Class Work (Subject to change)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>April 26-28</td>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
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<td><em>ALL</em> Project PAPERS DUE DATE APRIL 26</td>
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<td>May 3-5</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>May 10-12</td>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM Wednesday, May 18 0945-1200</td>
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Course Name, Number, Semester, and Year

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