San José State University
Psychology Department
Psyc 158, 30202, Perception, Sec 01, SUMMER 2016

Instructor: Steven Macramalla
Office Location: TBA (possibly our classroom)
Telephone: 831-234-8451
Email: steven.macramalla@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: MonWed 9:30PM – 11:00PM
Class Days/Time: Mon-Wed 11:00AM - 2:45PM
Classroom: Hugh Gillis Hall 120
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
How do each of our sensory modalities turn physical energy into neural impulse into our private experiences of the world? We will be examining the physical structure of the senses, and how their organization solves problems posed by evolution.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
The objective is to comprehend fundamental principles of sensation and perception as it applies to each sensory modality.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
Navigate and discriminate the scientific literature in sensation and perception in areas relevant to their concerns.
Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
Wolfe, Klunder & Levi  *Sensation & Perception, 4th Ed.*

Class website:  [http://www.sjsu.edu/people/steven.macramalla/courses/c1/](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 yourself 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](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/](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…………………………….60%

Paper ………………………….….40%

**Paper** There is a 6-page paper, not including title page and references, 1500 minimum word-count, in APA format (do NOT include an abstract). The paper will summarize at least TWO ORIGINAL PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES on sensation and perception. Points will be deducted from late papers which are due start of class Wednesday, August 8th. Have it printed out the night before. Printer problems will not be an acceptable excuse.

You will use APA format, 12 point font, one-inch margins, double spaced, and citations and references. You can find the APA manual at the library. It provides rules and examples for citation, headings, and references. DO NOT use headings for journal articles (i.e., Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion). STAPLE your paper, “dog-eared” (folding the top left corner) papers will be **marked down**.

In the past, students mistakenly thought they had to design and run an experiment, so to clarify: You are writing a paper on research not conducting an actual research project.

The paper will summarize research on a topic of sensation and perception. Examples include but are not limited to the mechanisms of the sensory organs (e.g., photoreceptors in the eyes, the auditory nerve of the ear etc.) and the resulting change in perceived intensity (e.g., changes of brightness in vision which do not exactly match the changes of brightness in the environment or enhanced spatial location in hearing in spite of confusing cues in the environment). Students in the past took “perception” to mean “social interpretation.” While perception and plays a role in social relationships, this is a paper on sensation not on social psychology. PAPERS WHICH FOCUS ON TOPICS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY WILL BE MARKED DOWN.

The paper will include an introduction, a summary of the hypotheses, methods and results, being sure to explain why the results are important, what they mean, and what questions it leaves for future research.

DO NOT quote or cite the textbook or lectures, do not use the word “prove”

**Exams** There will be three in-class exams and the final exam, each is composed of no more than 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 the textbook companion website provides quizzes to help you prepare. For best results, 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](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html) 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](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) 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](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (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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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | Mon July 11| Welcome & Intro  
Chap 1 History, Philosophy & Methods  
Chap 2 Photons & Eye Physiology |
| 2    | Wed July 13| Chap 3 Photoreceptors, Optic Pathways, Columns  
Chap 4 Edges, Figure-Ground Separation, Object Recognition |
| 3    | Mon July 18| Exam 1  
Chap 5 Color |
| 4    | Wed July 20| Chap 6 Depth Perception  
Chap 7 Complex Scene Perception & Attention |
| 5    | Mon July 25| Chap 8 Motion Perception  
Chap 9 Auditory Physiology & Psychoacoustics |
| 6    | Wed July 27| Exam 2  
Chap 10 Hearing in the Environment |
| 7    | Mon Aug 1  | Chap 11 Hearing Music and Speech  
Chap 12 Vestibular Perception |
| 8    | Wed Aug 3  | Chap 13 Touch  
Chap 14 Olfaction |
| 9    | Mon Aug 8  | Chap 15 Taste & PAPER DUE |
| 10   | Wed Aug 10 | FINAL EXAM |