Instructor:  Dr. Cary S. Feria
Telephone:  (408) 924-5620
Email:  cary.feria@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:  Monday 3:30-4:15pm, and Wednesday 11:00-11:45am
You are welcome to schedule an appointment with me for a different time, if
you are unable to make these times.
Office hours will take place using Zoom videoconference.

Class Days/Time:  Tuesday, Thursday 9:00-10:15am
Classroom:  Online Course – Classes will occur using Zoom videoconference.
Course Section:  02

Course Description
SJU 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.

Synchronous Online Course Format
This course will use a synchronous online course format. As a fully online course, all class meetings,
assignments, and exams will occur online. A synchronous online course means that the class meetings will
take place “live” at the assigned class time. We will be using the Zoom online meeting system for our class meetings.
Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop, or tablet), and access to the internet. SJSU
has a free equipment loan program available for students and Wi-Fi options on campus, which are described on
SJSU’s Learn Anywhere website. If you believe that you may have difficulties with accessing the internet or
having a computer or other device to use Zoom on, please let me know immediately!

Learning Outcomes
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.
– To inspire interest in perception research.

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: 978-1-60535-641-9

Course Requirements and Assignments
Exams:
There will be 5 non-cumulative exams. Exams will be given online through the course’s Canvas website. The exams will be given during the assigned class time on the class days listed on the schedule on p. 7 of this syllabus. The exams will be open-book and open-notes. The exams will be limited to a specific length of time. On the exams, the questions will be shown one question at a time. Exams will cover material from lectures and from the textbook. (A tip: Information that is in both the book and lecture is most likely to appear, followed by information from lecture only, then information from the textbook only.) Exams will be mostly multiple-choice, but may also include short-answer and/or diagramming questions. A study guide will be given out before each exam. (aligned with CLO 1, 2, 3; PLO 1, 2)

Chapter Quizzes:
Quizzes covering the textbook readings will be given online through the course’s Canvas site. You will take quizzes covering chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, and 15. For each of these chapters, you will take one quiz. The quizzes will be multiple-choice. These quizzes are intended to keep you studying at a steady pace over the semester and to allow you to assess your progress. The chapter quizzes are open-book and open-notes. Due
dates are listed on the course schedule on p. 7. The quizzes will be made available on Canvas several days before the due date. Specific instructions for how to take the quizzes will be provided soon. Each quiz must be completed before its specified due date, or it will not be accepted. You must submit the quiz by 11:59pm on the day it is due. There are no make-ups on the chapter quizzes. You must do them before their time deadline. Once the deadline is passed you may not complete the chapter quiz. There will be 10 chapter quizzes. Your 2 lowest scoring chapter quizzes will not count toward your grade, so 8 chapter quizzes will count toward your grade. (This policy of dropping the two lowest chapter quizzes helps in case students have an internet issue during a quiz or a life event that interferes with doing a quiz, because if a student misses one or two chapter quizzes for any reason, then those chapter quizzes will be dropped from their grade.) (aligned with CLO 1, 2, 3; PLO 1, 2)

**Lab Reports:**
Over the course of the semester, you will perform several lab activities giving you hands-on experience with the type of research that is carried out in the field of sensation and perception. Each lab report requires participation in the lab activity, which you will complete outside of class time. All lab activities will be completed individually from home, and don’t require coming to campus. Each lab activity will include instructions about the product (calculations, graphing, write-up, etc.) that should be turned in.

There will be 5 lab activities for which you will be expected to write lab reports. Your 1 lowest scoring lab report will not count toward your grade, so 4 lab reports will count toward your grade. (This policy of dropping the lowest lab report helps in case students have a technical issue with a given lab activity or have life events that interfere with doing a lab activity, because if a student misses a lab activity for any reason, then that lab report will be dropped from their 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)

**Introduction Assignments:**
You will be doing two short introduction assignments at the beginning of the semester. The first introduction assignment is to help me get to know the students better. For this, each student will answer a short survey, which will be turned in individually. The second introduction assignment is a discussion board to help students get to know their classmates. For this, each student will write 1 post on the discussion board introducing themselves, and comment on 2 of their classmates’ posts. More specific instructions will follow. (aligned with PLO 5)

**Grading Information**

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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>65</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 5</td>
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<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes (total)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 x 10 points each</td>
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<td>Lab Reports (total)</td>
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<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 x 15 points each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total possible</td>
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Final course grades will be based on the scale below:

- Grade: Percentage
- A plus: 97% or higher
- A: 93 to 96%
- A minus: 90 to 92%
- B plus: 87 to 89%
Grade | Percentage
--- | ---
B | 83 to 86%
B minus | 80 to 82%
C plus | 77 to 79%
C | 73 to 76%
C minus | 70 to 72%
D plus | 67 to 69%
D | 63 to 66%
D minus | 60 to 62%
F | 59% or lower

**Extra Credit Opportunity: In-Class Activities**

Some days in class, there will be in-class participatory activities giving you practice with the concepts of Perception. Students must attend the class Zoom meeting on the day of the activity to receive credit for the activity from that day. In some cases, you may also be responsible for completing some portion of the activity outside of class time. Each activity will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. Each activity will be worth one bonus point, unless otherwise specified.

**Classroom Protocol**

**Getting Help**

If you are having difficulties with any aspect of this course, please come to my Zoom office hours, and I will do my best to help you. If you are unable to come to my Zoom office hour times, 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.

**Zoom**

Zoom is the online meeting system where we will have our class meetings. Information on how to use Zoom is found here: [https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/how-tos/zoom/index.php](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/how-tos/zoom/index.php)

**Recording of Zoom Class Meetings**

I will record the class Zoom sessions and post the recordings on Canvas. The recordings may not be available immediately after class, but they will be available several days before the corresponding exam. These recordings are for your own private, educational purposes and cannot be shared. Students will be able to view the video recordings, but not download the videos. Students are prohibited from recording the class.

**Canvas**

Canvas is our course website, and many course materials will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. Please make sure that the email address you have listed in Canvas is the one you usually use, so that you will receive Canvas Announcements directly to your email. Information on how to use Canvas is found here [https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/how-tos/canvas/index.php](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/how-tos/canvas/index.php) and here [http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources](http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources).

**Attendance**

**Missed Classes.** If you are absent, please read the lecture slides from that day and watch the recording of the Zoom meeting.

**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.
Use of Camera in Class

If able and comfortable, turn on your camera! The ability for students to see each other can help promote a sense of community in the classroom. Also, it can be helpful for me as an instructor to receive visual feedback from you. However, using a camera isn’t a requirement; I understand that we’re all dealing with very unique circumstances and challenges at the moment, so I leave the decision about using your camera up to you.

Note

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

University Policies

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 at 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 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 Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Prohibition of Students Recording the Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor.

This university policy (S12‐7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. 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.

Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

Mute Your Microphone: To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions: Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible.

Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking: You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).

Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.
Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. 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/. 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/.

More About Zoom Recordings

This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).

Technology Requirements

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet). SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See SJSU’s Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

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 at 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 (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

University Policies

The University Policy S16-9. Course Syllabi (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) requires the following language to be included in the syllabus: “Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

University policy S17-1 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) states that “Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Per University Policy S16-9 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.
# Course Schedule

**PSYC 158 – Perception, Section 02, Spring 2021**

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Reading due dates and topic dates are approximate. I will announce any changes of exam, quiz, or assignment due dates in Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Due</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
<th>Quizzes Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thu. 1/28</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tue. 2/2</td>
<td>Res. Meth. in Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
<td>Intro Survey</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu. 2/4</td>
<td>Res. Meth. in Perception</td>
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<td>Intro Disc. Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tue. 2/9</td>
<td>The Eye</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu. 2/11</td>
<td>The Eye</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 1 (Thu. 2/11)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tue. 2/16</td>
<td>The Eye</td>
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<td>Thu. 2/18</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tue. 2/23</td>
<td>Vision and the Brain</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
<td>Lab Report 1</td>
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<td>Thu. 2/25</td>
<td>Vision and the Brain</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tue. 3/2</td>
<td>Object Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>Ch. 3 (Wed. 3/3)</td>
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<td>Thu. 3/4</td>
<td>Object Perception</td>
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<td>Ch. 4 (Mon. 3/8)</td>
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<td>Tue. 3/9</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>Thu. 3/11</td>
<td>Color Perception</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
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<td>Thu. 3/18</td>
<td>Seeing a 3D World</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<td>Seeing a 3D World</td>
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<td>Thu. 4/15</td>
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<td>Hearing</td>
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<td>Ch. 13</td>
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<td>Thu. 5/6</td>
<td>Touch</td>
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**Final Exam** **Thu. 5/20** **Exam 5 (7:15am)**