

San José State University
Department of Psychology
Psychology 158 – Perception
Section 1, Summer, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Evan M. Palmer
Office Location:	316 Dudley Moorhead Hall
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Office Hours:	By appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mon/Wed 1:00 – 2:15 PM + Asynchronous Lectures
Classroom:	Your choice! (Online Class)
Prerequisites:	PSYC 1 (General Psychology)

Course Description

Our sensory systems receive energy from the world in forms such as light, air compressions, and airborne molecules which are then transduced it into neural energy that our brains perceive as colors, sounds, and smells, respectively. The remarkable processes of sensation and perception are the most basic ways that we gather information about the world and will be the topic of this course. We will focus heavily on the visual and auditory systems, along with touch, taste, and smell. By the end of this course, you should have a basic understanding of how your perceptual systems work.

SJSU 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.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook:

Sensation & Perception (5th Ed.) by Wolfe, Kluender, Levi, et al. Sinauer & Associates Publishing. (4th Edition will also work fine for this course.)

Website:

5th Edition: https://oup-arc.com/access/sensation-and-perception-5e-student-resources#all_resources

Other technology requirements

You will need reliable access to the internet to access CANVAS and receive e-mails about the course. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas course website, accessible through <http://one.sjsu.edu>.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

CLO 1 – Know the biological parts of the sensory systems, and the functions of those parts.

CLO 2 – Understand how our senses and perceptual processes work, and what factors affect them.

CLO 3 – Understand the experimental methods used to study sensation and perception.

CLO 4 – Use experimental evidence as a tool for critically evaluating theories about perception.

Program Learning Outcomes

Goal 1. Knowledge Base of Psychology: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in sensation & perception.

Goal 2. Research Methods in Psychology: Students will understand basic methodological approaches used in sensation & perception, including research design, analysis, and interpretation.

Goal 3. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology: Students will understand and be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

Goal 4. Application of Psychology: Students will understand and be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

Goal 5. Values in Psychology: Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Requirements and Grading Information

Grade Breakdown:

100% 12 Chapter Tests

Grading Scale (I round up .5 and higher to next percentage):

97 – 100%	A+
93 – 96%	A
90 – 92%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
67 – 69%	D+
63 – 66%	D
60 – 62%	D-
≤ 59%	F

Chapter Tests: There will be a test for each chapter (20-30 questions), administered on Canvas.

Make-Up Tests: Given that this is an online class, you can take the tests when it is convenient for you. I do not expect that there will be any make-up tests for this class.

Late Assignment Policy: All assignments will be penalized 20% for every day they are late. This means that after 5 days, all assignments are worth 0 points and can no longer be made up

Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to exhibit professionalism and respect for each other and the instructor. Specifically, this means arriving to class on time, participating in class, engaging in civil discussion, and paying attention to in-class demonstrations and lectures. If you arrive late to class or need to leave early from class, please sit near the door so as not to disturb the rest of the class. Please silence and put away cell phones during class. You may record lectures only if you obtain my permission first.

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate any forms of academic dishonesty in my courses. I take issues of academic dishonesty very seriously and pursue disciplinary action rigorously, so please take extra care to avoid this sort of unpleasant situation. All writing assignments will be checked for plagiarism by TurnItIn on Canvas. Plagiarized assignments automatically receive a score of 0 in this course. Any incidents of cheating on exams result in an automatic grade of 0 for the exam. If the academic dishonesty is particularly egregious, you may receive an automatic F in the course. All incidents of academic dishonesty are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development (SCED) and students may appeal any accusations of academic dishonesty through SCED.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

PSYC 158 / Perception

Summer, 2020

Course Schedule

(Schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class.)

Course Schedule:

Date	Discussion and Demos	Wolfe Text
Mon, 6/1	Course Intro, Enrollment, History and Methods	Chs. 1-2
Wed, 6/3	The Eye, The Visual Cortex	Chs. 2-3
Mon, 6/8	The Visual Cortex, Object Recognition	Ch. 3-4
Wed, 6/10	Object Recognition, Color Perception	Chs. 4-5
Mon, 6/15	Color Perception, Space Perception	Chs. 5-6
Wed, 6/17	Space Perception, Attention & Scene Perception	Ch. 6-7
Mon, 6/22	Attention & Scene Perception, Motion Perception	Chs. 7-8
Wed, 6/24	Hearing I, Hearing II	Chs. 9-10
Mon, 6/29	Touch, Smell	Chs. 13-14
Wed, 7/1	Smell, Taste	Ch. 14-15

Chapter	Test Due Date
1 - Introduction	6/3
2 - The Eye	6/8
3 - Visual Cortex	6/10
4 - Object Recognition	6/12
5 - Color Perception	6/15
6 - Space Perception	6/18
7 - Attention & Scene Perception	6/22
8 - Motion Perception	6/24
9 & 10 - Hearing I & II	6/26
13 - Touch	6/29
14 - Smell	7/1
15 - Taste	7/3