

**San José State University
Psychology Department
PSYC 158, 44466, Perception, Sec 04, FALL 2025**

Instructor:	Steven Macramalla
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Office Hours:	TR 12:00PM - 1:00PM
Class Days/Time:	1:30PM – 2:45PM
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 165
Prerequisites:	Psych 001

WELCOME TO PERCEPTUAL PSYCHOLOGY IN-PERSON

with “ZOOM SUPPORT”



CANVAS Lecture Slides
Assignment Submissions
Exams



ZOOM

You Must Request
Permission From Me To Attend
One Or All Lectures Online.
However, You Must Have A Valid Reason.

**Online Attendance: SJSU Code of Conduct
Applies – Be Professional**

IN-PERSON+

You Are Expected To Attend Class In-Person Use Online Support in Case of Emergency

This is an in-person class with supplementary asynchronous resources: you are expected to attend class unless circumstances prove prohibitive (family, work etc.) in which case, the class is designed so you can complete the requirements on your own time.

Please understand, it's a safety net. To get the most out of the class, you want to attend lecture and discussions.

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.

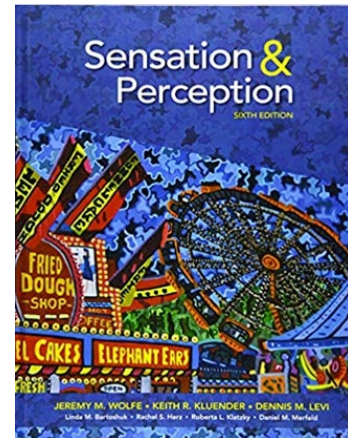
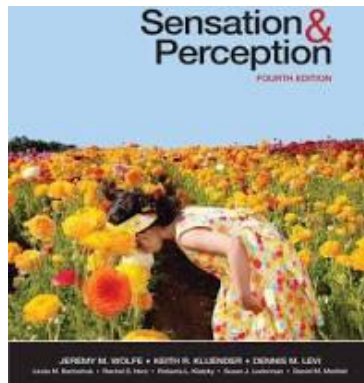
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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 -6th Ed.



Your Book!
Yes, You will
need it 😊

Zoom / Classroom Protocol

1. Be kind courteous to each other. Be attentive and courteous when your classmates speak or ask questions.
2. 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
3. Office hours do not replace attending class. If you miss class, get notes from at least two other students.
4. Refrain from using your laptop for anything unrelated to class.
5. For best results, read the book prior to class, attend class and review notes from class after.
6. I am responsive to levels of participation from students, and will moderate accordingly.
7. Cheating will not be tolerated in any form. Period.
8. Please call me 'Sir', 'Professor', or 'Dr. Macramalla', 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.

QUIZZES

In-Class On Canvas. Bring your Laptop.

**Time-pressured Multiple-Choice approx. 50 Questions
(approx. 1min. / question) to complete a quiz on the
designated day.**

**In the event the exam is assigned remotely, It is YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY to make sure you set aside
time in a quiet undisturbed location on that day with
ample time to complete it.**

**Requests for exam date
changes will be considered for extenuating circumstances
with a doctor's note,
if you have more than two exams on the same day, you are
a parent or have suffered unforeseen hardships due to the
pandemic.**

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

GRADING

Three exams.....	40%
Milestones.....	10%
Paper	35%
Science Dailies.....	15%

DO NOT trust the final total you see on Canvas.

Calculate your current grade yourself.

Use this formula:

$$\text{(AVG Tests x .4) + (AVG Milestones x .1) + (Paper x .35) + (Science Daily x .15)}$$

SCIENCE DAILIES

10 pts Each / Chapter PASS / NO PASS

Each ***first class of a new chapter*** you will come prepared with a printed article from Science Daily based on a search for a key term from the chapter we are covering in class. These Science Daily assignments will be used for in-class discussion.

How interesting you find the class depends on your level of participation. **There is one Science Daily assignment per chapter.**

FOR EACH SCIENCE DAILY ASSIGNMENT:

- Copy and Paste the ENTIRE SCIENCE DAILY ARTICLE you chose.
- Copy and Paste the ABSTRACT FROM THE ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE
- Provide:
 - Citation **in APA format** -- the citation includes the Author names, Title, Journal, Volume, Issue, pages.

Template:

Author Surname, F. M. (Publication Year). Article title: Subtitle. *Journal Title*, Volume(issue), page range. URL or DOI

Example:

Collins, R. (2004). Rituals of solidarity and security in the wake of terrorist attack. *Sociological Theory*, 22(1), 53–87. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9558.2004.00204.x>

- Then read the ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE and write a sentence on:
 - 1) theory,
 - 2) hypothesis,
 - 3) independent and dependent variables,
 - 4) with a little summary of the conclusion. Do NOT summarize the statistics (Results), just tell me what the researchers found and ...
 - 5) Why you thought it was cool.

HOW TO

Pick Your Science Daily Article

- Go to Science Daily.com
- Be sure to be in the section for Psychology
- Pick a news article you find interesting.

Find the Original Research Article

- At the bottom of the Science Daily article will be a reference to the ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE.
- Use the DOI or use the citation in **Psych Info or Google Scholar**,
 - PsycInfo: Go to the King Library → Databases → Psychology → PsycInfo → do a search and find the original article. If they do not have it, choose a different article.

Submit on Canvas AND bring paper copy to class for class discussions. Keep an electronic version for yourself – I may ask for the assignments to review them on paper.

- CANVAS: Upload the document in PDF or word document (do not cut and paste into the box). File name Format is of the files names you upload must be as follows, and it will include your last name, the lecture number for which this Science daily is for with the topic subject, separated with underscores. Here is the format followed by an example. Please follow this format as it will make verifying their completion easier.
- SDLectureNumber_LECTURETOPIC e.g., SD6_ PERCEPTION

You will be handing them into me roughly other every class.

TERM 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 (see syllabus for DUE date).

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).

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 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

Exams There will be three Canvas 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+ 96-100%	B+ 86-89%	C+ 76-79%	D+ 66-69%	F<60%
A 93-95%	B 83-85%	C 73-75%	D 63-65%	
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) 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.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 21	Welcome & Logistics Chap 1 History, Philosophy & Methods Science Daily 1
2	Aug 26 – 28	Chap 1 History, Philosophy & Methods Science Daily 1 cont'd Chap 2 Photons & Eye Physiology Science Daily 2
3	Sept 2 – 4	Chap 2 Photons & Eye Physiology Cont'd
4	Sept 9 – 11	Chap 3 Dots & Lines Science Daily 3
5	Sept 16 – 18	Chap 4 Edges, Figure-Ground Separation, Object Recognition Science Daily 4
6	Sept 23 – 25	Chap 5 Color Science Daily 5 EXAM 1 MILESTONE 1 DUE
7	Sept 30 – Oct 2	Chap 6 Depth Perception Science Daily 6
8	Oct 7 - 9	Chap 7 Complex Scene Perception & Attention Science Daily 7
9	Oct 14 – 16	Chap 8 Motion Perception Science Daily 8 MILESTONE 2 DUE
10	Oct 21 – 23	Chap 9 Auditory Physiology & Psychoacoustics Science Daily 9 EXAM 2
11	Oct 28 – 30	Chap 10 Hearing in the Environment Science Daily 10
12	Nov 4 – 6	Chap 11 Hearing Music and Speech Science Daily 11
13	Nov 11 – 13	Chap 12 Vestibular Perception Science Daily 12 TERM PAPER DUE
14	Nov 18 – 20	Chap 13 Touch Science Daily 13
15	Nov 25 – 27	THANKSGIVING WEEK NO CLASSES
16	Dec 2 – 4	Chap 14 Olfaction

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Science Daily 14 Chap 15 Taste Science Daily15
Final Exam		EXAM 3 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16