

**San José State University
Psychology Department
PSYC 158, 43834, Perception, Sec 04, FALL 2026**

Instructor: Steven Macramalla
Office Location: DMH 352 / ZOOM
Telephone: 831-234-8451
Email: steven.macramalla@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TR 12:00PM - 1:15PM
Class Days/Time: TuTh 1:30PM - 2:45PM
Classroom: Hugh Gillis Hall 122
Prerequisites: Psych 001

WELCOME TO PERCEPTUAL PSYCHOLOGY IN-PERSON



CANVAS Lecture Slides
Assignment Submissions
Exams

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.

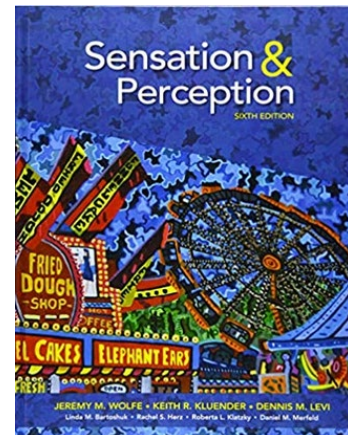
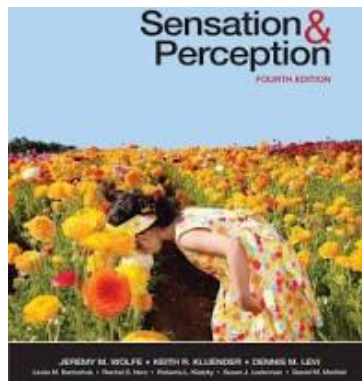
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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 😊

Classroom Protocol

1. EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:
2. Students are responsible for knowing all due dates for assignments, activities, and quizzes.
 - a. Make a list of ALL due dates that you are responsible for meeting and make sure your schedule allows you to meet these class deadlines
3. Students are responsible for contacting me BEFORE any course assignment or activity is due (or no later than 3 days after), to inform me of any issues/conflict that may arise.
 - a. If you have a conflict with a scheduled course requirement, then notify me IN ADVANCE of the scheduled date so that we can discuss this ahead of time (also, be ready to provide documentation). If something urgent has occurred (i.e., an emergency), then contact me as soon as possible and arrange to provide documentation.
 - b. For example, if your work supervisor has needed to make a last minute change to your work schedule and it now conflicts with a course requirement deadline, then it is your responsibility to notify me promptly.
4. Students are expected to CHECK OUR CANVAS PAGE REGULARLY to participate in class activities, complete assignments, and keep updated regarding course announcements.
5. I STRONGLY encourage you to check our Canvas page DAILY so you will be aware of important course announcements, reminders, and due dates.
6. Students are expected to turn in their own individual work
 - a. I EXPECT all students to maintain academic integrity in all coursework and when completing exams. All exams are

to be completed with no notes, no study guides, no textbook, or any outside help of any kind. All essays and other course assignments must be your own independent work.

7. Students are expected to attend class regularly

- a. Because this course is a fully in-person class, regular attendance is expected. Although students' attendance cannot be used in assigning final course grades, regular participation in in-class activities, lectures, and class discussions is expected and STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

8. Students are responsible for getting lecture notes from one of their classmates when class is missed for any reason.

9. I am responsive to levels of participation from students.

- a. 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.

“Netiquete” Protocol

- When contacting me by email, please write course name, e.g., “Psyc 154-03” in the subject line.
- Please address me by my formal title, (e.g., Professor or Dr. Macramalla). Remember when you send emails to your instructors, it is a “formal” mode of communication. So it is good practice

to write your emails as you would if you were sending any type of professional/formal email.

- I check email regularly during the work day, but please allow at least 1-2 business days for a response. Also, I do not regularly check email after 5:00 pm or on weekends.
- Students are encouraged to contact me to discuss any concerns you may have regarding our class as soon as possible and/or BEFORE an assignment or exam date.

EMAIL ME IN ADVANCE TO

- Set up an individual Zoom appointment to talk with me during my regular office hours or outside of my regular office hours if your schedule conflicts with them
- Inform me of any emergency/medical/family situation that may affect your ability to complete a course activity/assignment/quiz BEFORE the due date.

DO NOT EMAIL ME TO

- *Ask when due dates are for activities / assignments / quizzes.*
- *Those are all listed on your course schedule and can be easily found there.*

QUIZZES Time-pressured Multiple-Choice approx. 50 •

Questions. Tests will be “online in-class.” You will come to the regular class time, and take the test on your laptop.

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%
Term Paper	35%
Science Dailies.....	15%

**DO NOT trust the final total you see on Canvas.
Calculate your current grade yourself.**

Use this formula:
(AVG Tests x .4) + (AVG Milestones x .1) +
(Paper x .35) +(Science Daily x .15)

SCIENCE DAILIES

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.**

SCIENCE DAILY REACTION PAPERS

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. **Not Included: -2**
- Copy and Paste ONLY the ABSTRACT from the original research article. **Not Included: -2**
- Provide:
 - Citation **in APA format** -- the citation includes the Author names, Title, Journal, Volume, Issue, pages.
 - **- 2 points if not in APA -4 for no citation**

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:
 - theory,
 - hypothesis,
 - independent and dependent variables,
 - with a little summary of the conclusion. Do NOT summarize the statistics (Results), just tell me what the researchers found and ...
 - ... 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 a copy (electronic or paper) to class for class discussions.

- CANVAS: Upload the document in PDF or word document (do not paste a link to a Google Doc). Please follow this format as it will make verifying their completion easier.
- SDLectureNumber_LECTURETOPIC e.g., SD6_DEVELOPMENTAL

At Start of New Chapter, we will discuss Science Dailies in Breakout rooms and in class. YOUR SCIENCE DAILY CAN GET INCORPORATED IN FUTURE CLASSES.

TERM PAPER

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 There will be three Canvas exams, each is composed of approximately 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).

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/>

PSYC 158, 43834, Perception, Sec 04, FALL 2026

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 20	Welcome & Logistics Chap 1 History, Philosophy & Methods Science Daily 1
2	Aug 25 – 27	Chap 1 History, Philosophy & Methods Science Daily 1 cont'd Chap 2 Photons & Eye Physiology Science Daily 2
3	Sept 1 – 3	Chap 2 Photons & Eye Physiology Cont'd
4	Sept 8 – 10	Chap 3 Dots & Lines Science Daily 3
5	Sept 15 – 17	Chap 4 Edges, Figure-Ground Separation, Object Recognition Science Daily 4
6	Sept 22 – 24	Chap 5 Color Science Daily 5 EXAM 1 MILESTONE 1 DUE
7	Sept 29 – Oct 1	Chap 6 Depth Perception Science Daily 6
8	Oct 6 - 8	Chap 7 Complex Scene Perception & Attention Science Daily 7
9	Oct 13 – 15	Chap 8 Motion Perception Science Daily 8 MILESTONE 2 DUE
10	Oct 20 – 22	Chap 9 Auditory Physiology & Psychoacoustics Science Daily9 EXAM 2
11	Oct 27 – 29	Chap 10 Hearing in the Environment Science Daily10
12	Nov 3 – 5	Chap 11 Hearing Music and Speech Science Daily 11
13	Nov 10 – 12	Chap 12 Vestibular Perception Science Daily 12 TERM PAPER DUE
14	Nov 17 – 19	Chap 13 Touch Science Daily 13
15	Nov 24 – 26	THANKSGIVING WEEK NO CLASSES

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
16	Dec 1 – 3	Chap 14 Olfaction Science Daily 14 Chap 15 Taste Science Daily15
Final Exam		EXAM 3 TUE, DECEMBER 15