

Perception

PSYC 158

Summer 2026 Section 80 Fully Online 3 Unit(s) 07/06/2026 to 08/07/2026 Modified 03/24/2026

Course Description and Requisites

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.

Letter Graded

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
 2. 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.
 3. Critical Thinking Skills. 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.
 4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
- Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

**San José State University
Psychology Department
Psyc 158, Sec 80, 30394, Perception, SUMMER 2026**

Instructor: Steven Macramalla
Office Location: ZOOM
Telephone: 831-234-8451
Email: steven.macramalla@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Friday 1:30PM – 2:30PM
Class Days/Time: ASYNCHRONOUS
Classroom: SJSU CANVAS / ZOOM
Prerequisites: Psych 001

**WELCOME TO PERCEPTUAL PSYCHOLOGY ASYNCHRONOUS
CANVAS & ZOOM**



CANVAS Lecture Slides
Recorded Lectures
Assignment Submissions
Exams

To View Video Lectures

Login to MYSJSU
Links to Recording
under ANNOUNCEMENTS on Canvas
and at the BOTTOM of this SYLLABUS

Submissions On Canvas

- Quizzes
- Science Daily

On Canvas Under FILES

- Lecture Slides
- Syllabus
- Science Daily Instructions

QUIZZES

Time-pressured Multiple-Choice 50-60 Questions (approx. <1min. / question) to complete a quiz on the designated day.

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, if you have more than two exams on the same day, are a parent or have suffered unforeseen hardships.

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.

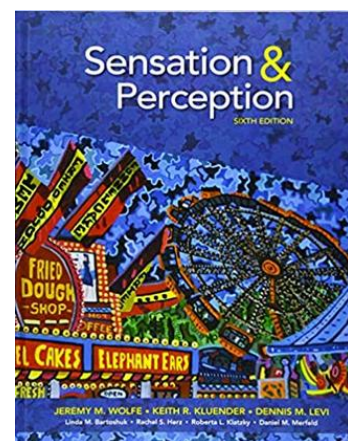
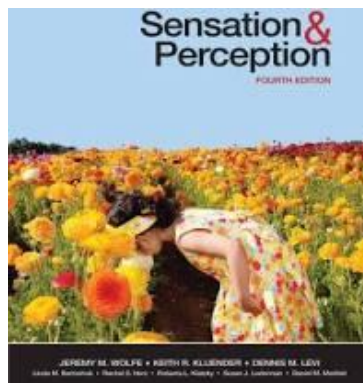
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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 **or** 5th Ed.



“Nettiquette” Protocol

Pay attention to the lectures and do not cheat.

- When contacting me by email, please write course name, e.g., “Psyc 158-03” in the subject line.
- 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.
- Office Hours: All office hours will be conducted online via ZOOM. Friday 12:30 - 1:30 PM and by appointment.
- Please email me in ADVANCE to schedule a meeting & to receive a Zoom link to join our meeting.
- If my regular office hours conflict with your schedule, please email me to set up an appointment at a day/time that is mutually convenient.
- 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.
- Please use these general guidelines when emailing me and/or when posting on the class discussion boards
- When emailing your professor (me)

- Indicate your class/section in the subject line of your email (e.g., Psyc 154 Sec 03)
- 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.** It is good practice to write your emails as you would if you were sending any type of professional/formal email.
- Allow AT LEAST 24 -48 hours for a reply from me. If you email me on a Friday, the earliest you can expect me to respond is on the following Monday. I stop checking school emails at 5:00 pm. Emails sent to me after 5:00 pm won't be read until the following morning at the earliest.

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.

*** NOTE: I will REQUIRE documentation of such situations to consider the possibility of an extension/make-up (see Make-up policy below)

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.

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

Quizzes.....70%
Science Dailies.....30%

DO NOT trust the final total you see on Canvas.

Calculate your current grade yourself.

Use this formula:

(AVG Tests x .70) + (Science Daily x .30)

Exams There will be five tests, 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 cover material overlapping between the lectures and the textbook. There is a **study-guide** on Canvas under Files. 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.

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%

SCIENCE DAILIES

Each **chapter** you will prepare a printed article from Science Daily based on a search for a key term from the chapter we are covering in class.

There is one Science Daily assignment per chapter.

FOR EACH SCIENCE DAILY ASSIGNMENT:

- Paste the ENTIRE SCIENCE DAILY ARTICLE into a Word Doc. **Missing: -2**
- Paste ONLY the ABSTRACT from the journal research article into the word document. **Missing: -2**
- Provide:
 - Citation **in APA format** -- the citation includes the Author names, Title, Journal, Volume, Issue, pages). You can learn this from Google scholar or the web in general). **Incorrect Format / not APA: -2**
 - **Missing Journal Citation (i.e., citing the Science Daily article instead): -4**
 - Example:

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

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 100-200 words in the Word Doc on the:
 - theory,
 - hypothesis,
 - independent and dependent variables,
 - with a little summary of the conclusion. Do NOT summarize the statistics (Results)
 - 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.
- CANVAS: Upload the document in PDF or word document (do not paste a link). Please follow this format as it will make verifying their completion easier.
- SDLectureNumber_LECTURETOPIC e.g.,
SD6_DEVELOPMENTAL

There are Sample Science Dailies under Files on Canvas

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, Sec 80, 30394, Perception, SUMMER 2026

While the class is asynchronous, the exam dates are fixed. The table below provides a recommended schedule to pace your viewing of the recorded lectures.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Week 1	Welcome & Intro Chap 1 History, Philosophy & Methods Chap 2 Photons & Eye Physiology Chap 3 Photoreceptors, Optic Pathways, Columns July 10 Test 1
2		
3	Week 2	Chap 4 Edges, Figure-Ground Separation, Object Recognition Chap 5 Color Chap 6 Depth Perception July 17 Test 2
4		
5	Week 3	Chap 7 Complex Scene Perception & Attention Chap 8 Motion Perception Chap 9 Auditory Physiology & Psychoacoustics July 24 Test 3
6		
7	Week 4	Chap 10 Hearing in the Environment Chap 11 Hearing Music and Speech Chap 12 Vestibular Perception July 31 Test 4
8		
9	Week 5	Chap 13 Touch Chap 14 Olfaction Chap 15 Taste Aug 7 Test 5

LINKS TO LECTURES

Lecture 1 History, Methods, Fechner, Weber, Steven's

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=64dce695-a7a3-45bc-9085-b359003dbfa2>

Lecture 1 Part II. Signal Detection Theory & ROC Curves

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=29b57b45-57c5-4321-8fb0-b35e004218cc>

Lecture 2 Physiology of the Eye Part I

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=50cb4078-aea4-4eca-91a3-b360002a3c9b>

Lecture 3 Physiology of the Eye Part II

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=67d2f1cb-2108-4623-8859-b3670011023e>

Lecture 4 & 5 Part I & II Acuity, Dots & Lines

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b59cd94a-0f9b-443a-928f-b3740189e31b>

Lecture 6 Part I Object Recognition Neurobiology & Edges

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=e3bb502e-8512-483c-bf4f-b35f017ebbf>

Lecture 7 Part II Object Recognition

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b87f4aab-804c-4d8c-bce3-b37c00242e00>

Lecture 8 Part I Color

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=0a5272cb-4a3b-48e6-b34f-b368016c6237>

lecture 9 Part II Color

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=656782c9-6f28-47a8-ba3a-b36a0122f015>

Lecture 10 Depth Perception Part I

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=13653908-8755-4179-b4f3-b375017f2e6b>

LECTURE 11 Depth Perception Binocular Cues Part II

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=13286220-5df0-455e-b089-b3bf01768379>

Lecture 12 Attention & Scene Selection Part I

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=f6a3e85d-f429-421a-8fcd-b37601227f3b>

Lecture 13 Attention Part II

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=faffcad7-c08d-45cc-b29e-b37a0020daf7>

Lecture 14 Motion Perception

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=c0878e85-638e-4fed-9c3b-b382005227eb>

Lecture 15 Biology of Audition Part I

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=405be86e-0e14-4ddc-af77-b37f01685e98>

Lecture 16 Biology of Audition Part II

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=53ed0003-a7e6-4a5b-8e75-b384016b93aa>

Lecture 17 Auditory Localization Part I

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=bac8d2c8-c65e-4086-96a8-b38601694f08>

Lecture 18 Auditory Localization Part II

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=70a42123-f961-423f-9562-b38d01795732>

Lecture 19 Auditory Perception for Music and Language

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=4bd91856-dd02-4be4-bd9f-b3c200547670>

Lecture 20 Vestibular Perception

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=49545a6e-a546-4335-a0e3-b3c701635b54>

Lecture 21 Touch Part I

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=fb82e742-4620-4a59-8ddb-b3a7012fedb2>

Lecture 22 Touch Part II

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=7c820096-ba42-48ca-ab4c-b3cc00021f5f>

Lecture 23 Smell

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=2e91ee6f-bc1e-4242-bb6b-b3cd004829b6>

Lecture 24 Gustation

<https://sjsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=bad3b4d0-438f-464b-b1af-b3cf001a9b61>