

<p><b>GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY</b> <b>PSY 361-1 PERCEPTION FALL 2017</b> <b>MW 4:30-5:45 PM ASH 2302</b></p>
---

## SYLLABUS

**Instructor :** Leon Lou, Ph.D.  
**Office:** 2313 Au Sable Hall  
**Office Phone:** 331-2916

**Office Hours:** MW 12:00-1:30pm, or by appointment  
**E-mail:** [loul@gvsu.edu](mailto:loul@gvsu.edu)

### Textbook

Steven Yantis & Richard Abram (2014/2017). Sensation and Perception, Worth

### Supplementary Readings on the Blackboard

I will upload a few articles on the blackboard to supplement the textbook on some topics I lecture on. I will make an announcement to let you know when they are done.

### Course description

All our experiences and knowledge come ultimately from our senses—vision, hearing, touch, smell and taste. Yet our senses are not always reliable. Illusions are ubiquitous. To understand how our senses both inform and deceive us, it is crucial to understand how our sensory organs and brain have evolved and how they function. This class is an introduction to the science of perception. After an overview of foundational issues and the scientific methods for studying perception, we'll spent weeks on various aspects of human visual perception, with sweeping surveys on other senses including bodily senses, hearing, smell and taste. How different senses interact with one another and how perception is related to cognition will be discussed. You may see the world in a very different way after learning about some of the details of our perceptual systems!

### Prerequisite: Psychology 101

### How to succeed in this course

In order to master the material covered in this course it is important for you to attend the lectures and also for you to read the material in the textbook. There will be considerable overlap between the textbook and the lectures, with many important concepts being described in both book and lecture. However, there also is additional material that will be presented in the lecture that is not contained in the textbook. (Similarly there is some material in the book that will be discussed only minimally in lecture.) To succeed in the course, I suggest that you at least skim over the material in the textbook prior to the class in which the material is to be discussed. Doing this will give you a basic sense of the main concepts and that can help you get the most out of the lectures. Then, after the lecture, re-read the corresponding sections in the textbook. At that time, you may be better able to appreciate some of the material in the book, since it will have been discussed in the lecture.

The lecture slides will be available on the Blackboard prior to each lecture. You will see that the slides are not a substitute for attending the lectures: many of the slides contain very little text, and you really need the explanation from lecture in order to make sense out of many of them. I provide the slides so that in class you can focus more on learning the concepts that are under consideration instead of expending effort scrambling to be sure that your notes are complete. Also, I have regular office hours and am also available by appointment to answer any questions that you might have.

## **Assessment**

Your final grade will be based on the total points that accrue in following categories:

### **Exams:**

There will be three examinations---two mid-term exams (50 points each) and one final exam (100 points). The two mid-term exams will be non-cumulative, covering the material since the beginning of the class and since the first mid-term exam, respectively. The final exam will be partially cumulative, with about 85% old material and 15% new material. All three exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions that cover materials from **the lectures, the textbook, in-class and homework assignments, and the videos shown in class.**

### **In-Class and Homework Assignment:**

There will be 15 of them. Each assignment is worth 6 points and takes about 30 minutes to complete, assuming you have read the relevant sections of the textbook and understood most of what is covered in my lectures.

About 7 of the assignment will be in-class work. These will be scheduled during the regular class time throughout the semester. They are designed to test your understanding of the material recently covered or to be covered in class. They include definition questions, problem-solving questions. If you miss a class, you may not be able to make up for the in-class assignment. This is another reason why class attendance is important.

**About 8 of the assignments will be homework. All homework assignment must be typed** and turned in electronically through Blackboard Assignment, which has a built-in plagiarizing detector. **E-mail attachments are NOT accepted.** Late work will be marked down 20% per day delayed and will not be accepted one week after its due date. No excuses whatsoever will be accepted.

## **Make-up Exams**

No make-up exams will be given except in extreme circumstances (for example, personal illness and death of an immediate family member). You have to present valid documentation to support your request for a make-up exam, which should be made before the exam, if possible. The make-up exam may be either a written or an oral exam and may consist mostly of essay questions. Make-ups will not be scheduled after one week in any cases.

**Grading Scale**

Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Final Exam	100
Assignments	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>

Your final letter grade will then be determined according to the following scale:

A = 270-290	C+ = 220-228
A- = 258-269	C = 209-219
B+ = 249-257	C- = 197-208
B = 238-248	D+ = 186-196
B - = 229-237	D = 174-185
	F = 0-173

**Withdrawal**

The deadline for withdrawal from this class with a "W" grade is October 27th, 5pm.

**Available assistance**

All students are encouraged to make use of my office hours. Stop by my office or talk to me after class if you have any questions or concerns about this course. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, let me know and we can schedule an alternative time to meet. Students who have difficulty with the course should contact me as soon as possible. If you need special disability-related accommodation, please inform me and contact the Disability Support Resources ([dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu](mailto:dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu), 331-2490).

### Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	8/28 8/30	Overview of the class Introduction to psychology of perception	Ch. 1
Week 2	9/4 9/6	<b>Labor day recess, no class</b> Introduction to Psychology of Perception	Ch.1
Week 3	9/11 9/13	Light and the eyes The visual brain	Ch. 2 Ch. 3
Week 4	9/18 9/20	The visual brain Perceiving color	Ch. 3 Ch. 5
Week 5	9/25 9/27	Perceiving color Perceiving depth	Ch. 5 Ch. 6
Week 6	10/2 10/4	Perceiving depth Review One	Ch. 6
Week 7	10/9 10/11	<b>Exam One</b> Perceiving size and shape	Ch. 6
Week 8	10/16 10/18	Perceiving motion Perceiving visual objects	Ch. 7 Ch. 4
Week 9	10/23 10/25	Perceiving visual objects Attention and awareness	Ch. 4 Ch. 9
Week 10	10/30 11/1	Perception and mental imagery Perception and action	Supplementary reading Ch. 8
Week 11	11/6 11/8	Sound and the ears The auditory brain	Ch. 10 Ch. 11
Week 12	11/13 11/15	Review Two <b>Exam Two</b>	
Week 13	11/20 11/22	Beauty, Art, and Perception <b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>	Supplementary reading
Week 14	11/27 11/29	The body senses Smell and taste	Ch. 13 Ch. 14 & 15
Week 15	12/4 12/6	Synesthesia and Cross-modality interactions Final Review	Supplementary Reading
<b>12/13 Wednesday, 4:00-5:50pm Same Classroom: Final Exam</b>			