

**Grand Valley State University**  
**Syllabus**  
**Cognition PSY 361\_01 - Perception, Fall, 2023**

**Instructor Information**

Name: Mario Fifić, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Office hours: By appointment at the office or via Zoom  
Email: fificm@gvsu.edu. Reaching me by email is generally much easier than reaching me by phone.  
Phone: (616) 331-5061

**Office Hours:**

T/TR 3:00pm-4:00pm. Schedule by email. We could meet in my office Room 2217 at Psychology Dept, Au Sable, or in a virtual office over the Zoom application.

**Class Time and Place**

M/W/F            9:00am - 9:50am            PSY361            Mackinac Hall B2124

**Prerequisites**

PSY 101 -Introductory Psychology

**Course Description (from GVSU)**

Study of how humans organize and interpret stimulation arising from objects in the environment. Review of theory, methodology, and research findings will be emphasized.

**Why Should You Take This Course?**

How does the mind and brain take physical energy, such as light or sound, and convert it into our perception of the world? This course examines the behavioral and biological bases of human and animal perceptual systems. This includes vision, audition, smell, taste, and touch. Particular emphasis is placed on high-level perception and how it relates to other cognitive systems. So, this course is an opportunity to gain more knowledge about different approaches to understanding perceptual processes, and how this knowledge could be applied in real-life situations.

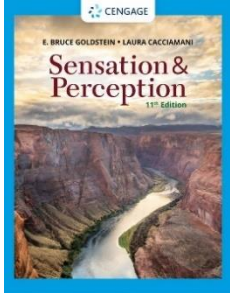
**Course Goals**

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

1. **Summarize** the important methods, research findings, and theories of perception.
2. **Evaluate** current issues in perception research.
3. **Compare** the strengths and weaknesses of various theories of perception.
4. **Explain** how perception is empirically studied.
5. Connect everyday life with Science: Learn to identify everyday life events that could be studies through Perception

## **Required Text**

### **Sensation and Perception**



#### **LOOK INSIDE MY LIBRARY**

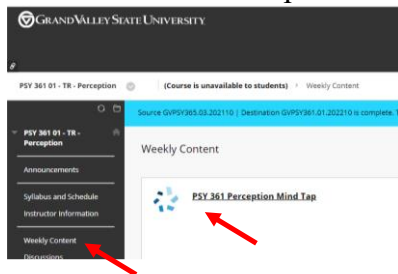
by E. Bruce Goldstein, Laura Cacciamani  
**11th Edition | Copyright 2022**

MindTap through GVSU Save: Goldstein - MindTap Psychology, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card for Goldstein's Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 5<sup>th</sup>. ISBN 9781337408295.

1. Purchase the access key in the GVSU bookstore.

NOTE: in case of some issues be sure to Allow pop-ups for Blackboard and Cengage

2. Go to BlackBoard/Weekly Content
3. Click “PSY361 Perception MindTap”



4. From here, your browser should open a new tab and you should be able to click continue and enter in your access code.

## **Additional Readings**

At various times during the semester, additional readings will be assigned. These readings will be required, and will supplement the text and lecture. The instructor will announce and make the readings available on Blackboard, i.e., students will not be required to purchase them.

## **Required Equipment (owned or accessible)**

- Computer with a sound card and speakers and operating system that meets current Blackboard browser requirements (Windows 7 or above, OS 10.10 or above).
- You should bring laptops, or your computer devices that are able to access the MindTap in the class.
- Computer camera (most laptops have a camera).
- A laptop can be rented from the GVSU Mary Idema Pew library IT department if needed.

## **Required software (available for free):**

“Microsoft Word” (find the installation [link](#) through GVSU IT)

Alternatively, you could use compatible Google Docs for writing your assignments.

## **Course Webpage**

The instructor will administer all elements of the course using GVSU’s Blackboard system. The webpage will contain pertinent course information, grades, lecture materials, announcements, readings, assignments, and exams. Students are responsible for all information provided via Blackboard. The full, detailed description of all assignments, exams, and due dates will be found in Blackboard.

To access Blackboard, go to <https://lms.gvsu.edu/> and enter your log in and password.

Take a look at the GVSU Online Learning pages to find numerous materials about using Blackboard and online learning <http://www.gvsu.edu/online/>.

Use of Blackboard is integral to this course and students must log on a few times each week in order to complete course requirements, receive important announcements and/or updates, and communicate with instructors and other students about course content.

Check the current [technical requirements](#) to use Blackboard and [preferred browser information](#).

### **Technical difficulties with Blackboard**

If you experience technical problems with Blackboard, contact the help desk by email or phone - [helpdesk@gvsu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@gvsu.edu) or 616-331-3513. The help website is <https://www.gvsu.edu/it/>.

## **Plagiarism**

“Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one’s own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodical, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.” (GVSU, Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog 2004-2005, p. 91). Plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the course.

## **Course Organization and your participation**

- (1) Class participation is mandatory. If you are not able to participate in the class, you should let me know.
- (2) Home preparation: Before each week you will be asked to prepare a dedicated book chapter and complete the online tests in MindTap.
- (3) Class activities: We will briefly go over the important information in each class chapter. You are encouraged to participate in a class discussion, and ask questions, and share relevant observations. You may be asked to make a quick report on some class activities which will bring you towards the points for the final grade. For some activities you will need your personal computer.

## **Optimal course working strategy**

- (a) PREPARE: During the weekend, try to prepare for the next chapter relying on the adaptive learning system - MindTap.
- (b) PARTICIPATE: Actively work with me and other students to clarify class material or to share new ideas.
- (c) CLOSE: Complete assignments by the end of Friday for that week.

## **Course Requirements**

Your class grade will be determined based on your achievement on: (1) MindTap tasks (quizzes, training and activities), (2) In-class activities and (3) Final Topic Paper.

### **(1) Completing the MindTap tasks prior the class activities [33%]**

Each chapter will be covered at the MindTap web site. The MindTap will engage you to improve your learning. There are several types of engagements: (a) Mastery Training and (b) End of the chapter Quiz. Your **primary task** is to complete the (a) Mastery Training for a certain chapter before the week that the chapter will be covered [see the deadlines]. There is one trick with the Mastery Training: it will not allow you to complete it in one sitting! It uses an adaptive learning method and may ask you to take longer breaks before you move on with the completion. Good advice: plan to start working on the Mastery Training ahead of its deadline, preferably on Monday of the week before the actual chapter will be covered. Completion of these will bring you almost 30% of your final grade. The Quizzes will cover material learned in the class. Each quiz is comprised of multiple-choice questions. There will be not a limit on how many times you can participate in these tasks. All these activities serve for practice and learning and can be retaken an infinite number of times, before the week's deadline.

### **(2) In-class activities [33%]**

During the class time, you will be asked to engage in research activity related to the topic. The goals of these activities are to gain deeper understanding of important concepts and to consider how that knowledge could be applied to solving real life problems. There are different forms of these activities: you may be act individually but you may also be part of a group. These activities occupy most of the class time and could require a personal computer. Participation in the in-class activities cannot be completed outside of the class time.

### **(3) Exams: essays [33%]**

You are required to select a question about perception that interests you and try to answer the question by reviewing several research articles published in peer-reviewed journals. You are expected to write 3 essay papers through semester, each of 7-9 pages to describe the empirical findings reported in the article, critically evaluate how well these studies have addressed the question by applying what you have learned in class about perception and propose a new study to answer the initial question. A more detailed instruction for the paper will be posted on the Blackboard.

## **Being exam excused or making late assignment submission**

**Late submissions of assignments and exams will result in losing 10% of the points daily.**

(Note: being late is operationally defined as submitting work 1 second or longer after the deadline).

You have an option to miss one in-class activity (for one week) and will not be required to offer an excuse. You will be offered an alternative assignment, which is to write a chapter's summary in no less than (your) 1200 words.

In cases that you plan to miss class activities for the second time, or due to important issues in your life, you will be offered an alternative assignment **ONLY** after providing some written excuse, that could be written confirmation by the head of the department or by a physician.

## **Weekly deadlines**

There will only be two important deadlines within a week. The first is associated with chapter learning, the deadline is set before our class on Sunday at 11:59pm. By that time, you are expected to complete your MindTap Mastery Training and the quizzes. The next deadline is set for Friday at 11:59pm. By that time, you are expected to complete the assignment activity that could be shared during that week's class.

DAYS OF THE WEEK 7 days			
WEEKDAYS 5 days	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px;">           Sunday 11:59pm.            Finish taking MindTap            Learning and MindTap quizzes            For this week         </div>
	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	
	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	
	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Thu.</b>	
	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	
WEEKEND 2 days	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px;">           Friday 11:59pm.            Submit all assignments            or reports if required         </div>
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	

## Grading

The MindTap activities, assignments and exams will collectively be worth approximately 400 points. Based on your cumulative point score the following grades will be assigned:

### **Grade Distribution**

A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	88 - 89%
B	84 - 87%
B-	80 - 83%

C+	78 - 79%
C	74 - 77%
C-	70 - 73%
D+	67 - 69%
D	60 - 66%
F	59% and lower

THE GRADING SCALE AS PRINTED ABOVE IS ***FINAL!*** Any changes in grading policy will be announced on the course website.

## Netiquette [but also Etiquette]

This course will involve frequent opportunities to interact with your peers via the Blackboard Discussion Board. Although many of us have experience with e-mail, online discussion is different because we're communicating "one to many" rather than "one to one." Therefore, it's important that we maintain a sense of freedom to express our thoughts while at the same time providing a safe atmosphere for that expression. Please keep this mind as you are communicating with others.

All participants should maintain a professional attitude and manner of discussion. While spirited debate is encouraged, unprofessional behavior is not tolerated. Words often come across "more directly and harshly" in this written form of communication, since there are no facial gestures, expression or tone of voice to help convey your message fully. Your contributions should not be overly negative or personal in nature.

## Emergencies and Schedule Conflicts

Exams will be administered online during limited time windows on specific days throughout the semester (see tentative schedule below). Absences from these exams related to participation in a university-sanctioned event, a personal illness, a family emergency, or a major religious holiday will be excused provided that you a) give the instructor at least one week advance notice (when the conflict is foreseeable) or a timely explanation upon your return (when the conflict is unforeseeable) and b) give the instructor written documentation from an appropriate faculty member, university administrator, physician, or clergy member. Make-up exams will be administered only if an absence from the exam is excused for one of the above reasons. Note that vacation is not considered a valid excuse. You may take a make-up exam either at another time on the normal exam day, or on the soonest possible date thereafter. An unexcused absence from an exam will constitute a score of 0.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact Disability Support Resources (DSR) at (616) 331-2490 to develop a plan of assistance that you can provide to me.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

**Learning Modules** (one-chapter modules): The learning modules in Blackboard will be a foundational part of the course. Modules are where you will find instructions for each one-week segment of the course including reading assignments, video lectures, practice activities, and assignments. Modules will open up one week at a time and various assignments will be due during those windows. All previous modules will be open throughout the course.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC(S)</b>	<b>READING</b>
1&2	Aug 28-Sep 1	Course overview; Introduction to perception	Ch. 01
	Sep 4-8	Sep 4: Labor Day recess Basic Principles of Sensory Physiology	Ch. 02
3&4	Sep 11-15	The Eye and Retina	Ch. 03
	Sep 18-22	The visual Cortex and Beyond & Perceiving Objects and Scenes	Ch. 04 Ch. 05
	TBD	<b>Paper 1: Modules 1-4</b>	
5&6	Sep 25-22	Visual attention & Taking Action	Ch. 06 Ch. 07
	Oct 2-6	Perceiving Motion	Ch. 08
7&8	Oct 9-13	Perceiving Color	Ch. 09
	Oct 16-20	Perceiving Depth & Size	Ch. 10
9&10	Oct 23-27	Oct 22-24: Fall break Hearing	Ch. 11
	Oct 30-Nov 3	Hearing & Environment	Ch. 12
	TBD	<b>Paper 2: Modules 5-10</b>	
11&12	Nov 6- 10	Perceiving Music	Ch. 13
	Nov 13-17	Perceiving Speech	Ch. 14
13&14	Nov 20 -24	Nov 22- 26: Thanksgiving Day recess	
15	Nov 27-Dec 1	The Cutaneous Senses	Ch. 15
		The Chemical senses	Ch. 16
	TBD	<b>Paper 3: Modules 11-15</b>	

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*The above schedule is tentative. Any changes in the schedule will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.*

**Disclaimer:**

All of the information included in this syllabus, including the course schedule, assignments, and grading procedure, is subject to change. Any consequential changes to this syllabus will be announced on Blackboard.

## How Much Time Do I Need To Spend On This Course?

Because PSY361 is a 3-credit course, you are expected to spend a total of 108 hours on the course (3 course credits x 36 work hours per credit = 108 total work hours for the entire course, excluding attending the video lectures).

If you are taking this course during the SPRING term: You are expected to work on this course 3 HOURS per DAY, six days a week.

## Tips for a Successful Learning Experience

*\*Although these might seem obvious and simple, they will make a difference*

- Read the syllabus and view all preparatory information on Blackboard
- Stay organized and track due dates
- Plan weekly study times
- KEEP UP ON THE READING AND LECTURES
- Take your own notes on each lecture, or write your own notes into the provided slides
- Log onto Blackboard at least 3 times per week to check announcements, discussion board, and interact with course material. Online courses require perseverance, self-discipline, self-motivation, and the ability to work independently – more so than face-to-face on-campus classes.
- Post questions, comments, and ideas on discussion board (if included)
- Ask questions of the instructor. Not just clarification questions about logistics, but content questions.

## Academic Integrity

This course is subject to GVSU's general requirements for courses. A full list with pointers to resources may be found at [www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies](http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies).

**Section STU 4.0 of GVSU's Student Code contains very specific information about maintaining academic integrity. It states:** "The principles of academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to a community of scholars. The University expects that students will not engage in acts of academic dishonesty in curricular and non-curricular academic activities. Engaging in academic dishonesty compromises the integrity of university grades, and scholarship and research."

Academic dishonesty is defined as actions or behaviors that misrepresent one's contributions to or the results of any scholarly product submitted for credit, evaluation, or dissemination. This definition includes, but is not limited to, fabrication, falsification, cheating, and plagiarism. Terms are defined as the following:

- Cheating is defined as attempting to use materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise that have not been allowed by the instructor.
- Plagiarism is defined as offering the work of someone else as one's own. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of other students. Academic dishonesty compromises the integrity of grades, meaning that all academic work should be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid.

## **PROCEDURES**

When the instructor feels that action beyond a failing course grade is warranted, the instructor will report the incident at [www.gvsu.edu/conduct](http://www.gvsu.edu/conduct) and request additional action via the University Conduct Process. When the alleged violation is related to the Academic Honesty - Integrity of Scholarships and Grades, the Hearing Body shall be composed of faculty members.

It is the instructor's responsibility to establish a classroom atmosphere that fosters academic honesty on the part of the students. If any instance of academic dishonesty is discovered by an instructor, they will notify the student and discuss the incident. After discussing the instance with the student, the instructor will make a decision. Depending on the instructor's judgment of the particular case, they may do nothing, impose additional course requirements, ask the student to repeat the work in question, or give a failing grade for the assignment, examination or the entire course. Any time an instructor addresses a violation of Academic Honesty with a failing grade on an assignment or in a course, they must report the incident at [www.gvsu.edu/conduct](http://www.gvsu.edu/conduct). Other incidents may be reported for tracking purposes. Reporting the incident will notify the Department Chair, the Dean of Students, and the Dean(s) of the Instructional



Colleges. Reporting the incident does not automatically initiate additional action, but keeps record of the incident. Students may utilize the Academic Grievance Process to appeal a faculty initiated decision.”

**Students will comply with the following rules, when engaging in coursework:**

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.
6. The course materials are intended for curriculum and course-related purposes and are copyrighted by the University. Appropriate access to this content is given for personal academic study and review purposes only. Unless otherwise stated in writing, this content may not be shared, distributed, modified, transmitted, reused, sold, or otherwise disseminated. These materials may also be protected by additional copyright; any further use of this material may be in violation of federal copyright law. Violators of this policy will be referred to the Committee on Professionalism, Performance, and Promotion for disciplinary purposes.
7. The student signed below understands and accepts all the terms of the above syllabus.

If you agree with 1-7 please post the signed document on BB.

Student’s full name printed and signed \_\_\_\_\_

G# \_\_\_\_\_