

# Psychology of Perception

Psychology 4165, Section 100

Spring 2017

Tuesday and Thursday

11:00–12:15

Muenzinger E113

Lewis O. Harvey, Jr. – Instructor  
Steven M. Parker – Teaching Assistant



Thatcher Illusion (Thompson, 1980)

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## Syllabus Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1	17 Jan	Introduction -----	Study Guide 1-----	(W 1)
Week 1	19 Jan	Psychophysics-----	Homework 1 -----	(W 1)
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Week 2	24 Jan	Vision -----		(W 2)
Week 2	26 Jan	Vision -----	Homework 2 -----	(W 2)
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Week 3	31 Jan	Spatial Vision-----	Study Guide 2-----	(W 3)
Week 3	2 Feb	Spatial Vision-----	Homework 3 -----	(W 3)
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Week 4	7 Feb	Object Perception-----		(W 4)
Week 4	9 Feb	Object Perception-----	Homework 4 -----	(W 4)
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Week 5	14 Feb	Color Vision -----		(W 5)
Week 5	16 Feb	Color Vision -----	Homework 5 -----	(W 5)
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Week 6	21 Feb	Space Perception -----	Study Guide 3-----	(W 6)
Week 6	23 Feb	Space Perception -----	Homework 6 -----	(W 6)
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Week 7	28 Feb	Attention -----		(W 7)
Week 7	2 Mar	Attention -----		(W 7)
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Week 8	7 Mar	<b>Exam 1</b> -----	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b> -----	
Week 8	9 Mar	Motion -----		(W 8)
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Week 9	14 Mar	Hearing -----	Study Guide 4-----	(W 9)
Week 9	16 Mar	Hearing -----		(W 9)
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Week 10	21 Mar	Audition -----		(W 10)
Week 10	23 Mar	Audition -----	Homework 7 -----	(W 10)

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Week 11	28 Mar	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Week 11	30 Mar	<b>Spring Break</b>	

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Week 12	4 Apr	Music & Speech-----	(W 11)
Week 12	6 Apr	Music & Speech----- Homework 8 -----	(W 11)

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Week 13	11 Apr	Vestibular -----	Study Guide 5----- (W 12)
Week 13	13 Apr	Vestibular -----	(W 12)

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Week 14	18 Apr	Touch -----	(W 13)
Week 14	20 Apr	Touch-----	(W 13)

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Week 15	25 Apr	Taste & Smell-----	(W 14 & 15)
Week 15	27 Apr	Taste & Smell-----	(W 14 & 15)

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Week 16	2 May	Taste & Smell-----	(W 14 & 15)
Week 16	4 May	Review -----	<b>Outside Reading Paper Due (50 points)</b> -----

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8 May **Final Exam, Monday**  
**Afternoon (16:30–19:00)**

- The “Homework x” notation on the syllabus indicates when homework assignments will be handed out. The homework will be due one week later
- The “Study Guide x” notation on the syllabus indicates when study guides will be handed out. The study guides are meant to focus your reading and notetaking in the lecture portion, as well as focus on the laboratory exercises. They are designed to prepare you for the midterm exam on Tuesday, 7 March 2017 and for the final exam on Monday, 8 May 2017.

## Textbook for the Course

Wolfe, J. M., Kluender, K. R., Levi, D. M., Bartoshuk, L. M., Herz, R. S., Klatzky, R. L., . . .  
Merfeld, D. M. (2015). *Sensation and Perception*. Sunderland, Massachusetts:  
Sinauer Associates, Inc. (Required).

**Note:** The numbers in parentheses above refer to chapters in the Wolfe (W) text. Please read  
the indicated chapter before the class meeting.

The website for the course is available through DesireToLearn (D2L) using your CU  
Identikey and password or directly from this URL:

[http://psych.colorado.edu/~lharvey/P4165/P4165\\_2016\\_1\\_Spring/Main\\_Page\\_2017\\_Spring\\_PSYC4165.html](http://psych.colorado.edu/~lharvey/P4165/P4165_2016_1_Spring/Main_Page_2017_Spring_PSYC4165.html)

All handouts and lab material are available from this web page. The outside reading and the  
lectures are available through DesireToLearn (D2L).

## Office Hours

Name	Lewis O. Harvey, Jr.	Steven M. Parker
Office	MUEN D251b	MUEN
Hours	M&F: 09:00–10:00 T&R: 09:00–10:00 and by appointment	TBD in lab and by appointment
Telephone	303-492-8882	
email	lewis.harvey@colorado.edu	steven.parker@colorado.edu
web	<a href="http://psych.colorado.edu/~lharvey/">http://psych.colorado.edu/~lharvey/</a>	

## Laboratory Schedule

Section L103: 12:30–15:20 Tuesday, Room MUEN D346  
Section L104: 12:30–15:20 Thursday, Room MUEN D346

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1.	17 & 19 Jan 2017	<b>“R” you ready?</b> Using R for data analysis
2.	24 & 26 Jan 2017	<b>Lab 0:</b> Doing Computer-Controlled Experiments: <b>Oblique Effect</b>
3.	31 Jan & 2 Feb 2017	<b>Lab 1:</b> Data Collection: <b>Face Recognition</b>
4.	7 & 9 Feb 2017	<b>Lab 1:</b> Data Analyses: <b>Face Recognition</b>
5.	14 & 16 Feb 2017	<b>Lab 2:</b> Data Collection: <b>Loudness Scaling</b> <b>Lab 1: Report Due (30 points)</b>
6.	21 & 23 Feb 2017	<b>Lab 2:</b> Data Analyses: <b>Loudness Scaling</b>
7.	28 Feb & 2 Mar 2017	<b>Lab 3:</b> Create PsychoPy Experiment: <b>Stroop Effect</b> <b>Lab 2: Report Due (40 points)</b>
8.	7 & 9 Mar 2017	<b>Lab 3:</b> Group Data Analysis: <b>Stroop Effect</b> <b>Lab 4: Form Research Project Teams</b>
9.	14 & 16 Mar 2017	<b>Lab 4:</b> Work on Group Projects: Design Experiment <b>Lab 3 Report Due (50 points)</b>
10.	21 & 23 Mar 2017	<b>Lab 4:</b> Work on Group Projects: Data Collection
11.	28 & 30 Mar 2017	<b>Spring Break: No Classes</b>
12.	4 & 6 Apr 2017	<b>Lab 4:</b> Work on Group Projects: Data Collection
13.	11 & 13 Apr 2017	<b>Lab 4:</b> Work on Group Projects: Data Analysis
14.	18 & 20 Apr 2017	<b>Lab 4:</b> Work on Group Projects: Data Analysis
15.	25 & 27 Apr 2017 25 Apr 2017, Tuesday 26 Apr 2017, Wednesday	<b>Lab 4:</b> Work on Project Reports and Presentations <b>Lab 4:</b> Work on Project Reports and Presentations <b>Lab 4: Group Project Posters due (10 Points)</b> <b>Undergraduate Research Day, Glenn Miller Ballroom, UMC 15:00-17:00</b>
16.	2 May 2017, Tuesday 4 May 2017, Thursday	<b>Lab 4: All Group Project Presentations, (10 points), MUEN D430, 12:30-15:20</b> <b>Lab 4: Final Project Reports due (40 + 20 points)</b>

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## Original Articles

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1.	17 Jan 2017	(Swets, 1961)
2.	24 Jan 2017	(Schiller & Carvey, 2005)
3.	31 Jan 2017	(Corbett, 2016)
4.	7 Feb 2017	(Owens, Antonoff, & Francis, 1994)
5.	14 Feb 2017	(Jacobs & Nathans, 2009)
6.	21 Feb 2017	(Kaufman & Rock, 1962)
7.	28 Feb 2017	(Most, Scholl, Clifford, & Simons, 2005) (Most & Astur, 2007)
8.	7 Mar 2017	(Nuthmann, 2014) (Devyatko, Appelbaum, & Mitroff, 2017)
9.	14 Mar 2017	(Plomp, 1964)
10.	21 Mar 2017	(Plomp & Levelt, 1965)
11.	28 Mar 2017	<b>Spring Break – No Classes</b>
12.	4 Apr 2017	(Poeppel, Emmorey, Hickok, & Pylkkänen, 2012)
13.	11 Apr 2017	(Held, 1965)
14.	18 Apr 2017	(Slater, Spanlang, Sanchez-Vives, & Blanke, 2010) (Guterstam, Petkova, & Ehrsson, 2011)
15.	25 Apr 2017	(Savic, Berglund, Gulyas, & Roland, 2001) (Gelstein et al., 2011)
16.	2 May 2017	<b>Last Week of Class</b>

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Copies of these papers are available to download for reading through D2L using your CU IdentiKey ID. See the reference section at the end of the syllabus for complete citation information.

## Conditions Under Which the Course Operates

### **Lecture:**

There will be two exams given during the semester: one mid-term and one final examination. Both are required. No make-up examinations will be given. You will receive a grade of zero for each exam not taken. There will be eight homework assignments. Each homework will be handed out on a Thursday (marked by bullets on the syllabus) and will be due the following Thursday. Hard copies of the homework should be handed in at lecture and an electronic copy uploaded to the Desire2Learn Dropbox.

### **Original Articles Reading:**

There are 18 original journal articles that are assigned as part of the course. These papers will form the basis of a 10 page paper about experimental design and drawing conclusions from data that you will write. This paper will be due on Thursday 4 May 2017, and is worth 50 points.

### **Laboratory:**

The laboratory is not optional in PSYC 4165. There are four graded assignments in the laboratory. The sum of the four grades will be your laboratory grade. All lab assignments must be written and printed with a computer word processor and all graphs must be prepared using computer graphics.

### **Grading:**

Your final grade is computed from your exam scores, your laboratory grade, your homework grades, and the analytic paper grade. The total possible points in the course is 850:

200	First Examination (Tue, 7 Mar 2017, 11:00-12:15)
300	Final Examination (Mon, 8 May 2017, 16:30–19:00)
200	Laboratory Grade
80	Homework Grade
50	Analytic Paper Grade (Thu, 4 May 2017)
20	Participation
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850	Total Possible Points

Your final letter grade in the course will be assigned in the following manner. First a "Reference Score" will be calculated by taking the mean of the top three students in the class. Your grade will be determined by how well you have done in comparison to this reference score:

	A >96.6%,	A- >93.3% of the reference score
B+ >90.0%,	B >86.6%,	B- >83.3% of the reference score
C+ >80.0%,	C >76.6%,	C- >73.3% of the reference score
D+ >70.0%,	D >66.6%,	D- >63.3% of the reference score
	F <63.3%	

It is therefore possible for the entire class to receive the grade of A. By the same token, it is also possible that very few people would receive an A, depending on the spread of grades across the class.



## Comments About the Psychology of Perception

### **Why Take This Course?**

There are three reasons to take this course:

1. To gain an understanding of the capabilities and limitations of our perceptual experiences;
2. To sharpen your ability to critically evaluate theories of perception in light of the results of experiments;
3. To gain practical skills in the use of computers for designing experiments, for analyzing and graphing data, and for preparing written laboratory reports.

The study of perception is the oldest part of modern psychology. It developed from trying to answer two questions posed by philosophers: “How do we know what we know?” and “Why do things appear the way they appear?” Since most of what we know about the outside world comes to us through our sensory systems, our sensory capabilities were the first to be studied extensively. Perceptions are derived from neural and psychological mechanisms that operate on sensory information. We will study the limits of our sensory and perceptual abilities and learn how to characterize the unreliability that results from these limits.

### **Prerequisites:**

A broad understanding of the basic concepts from a general psychology course is assumed. You will be using methods of inferential statistics, such as those taught in PSYC 2111 and PSYC 3111, to evaluate the results of your experiments. A facile ability with these methods in particular and with mathematical concepts through algebra and trigonometry are required. A familiarity with calculus is helpful but is not necessary. Please work through the eight questions on the next two pages. If you find these questions very difficult and you don't even know how to find out how to answer them, you probably are not ready to take this course.

You will be expected to write in a clear and grammatically correct style in this class. If you believe you will require extra help with your writing, please visit The Writing Center located in Norlin E111. More information can be found at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html>.

You can also reach The Writing Center help desk by phone at (303) 735-6906.

You need to make a considerable commitment of time to do well in this class. For each credit hour of the course you should expect to spend 3 hours on class-related activities (studying, research, writing) per week. Since the class is a four-credit course, expect to spend 12 additional hours per week outside the class and laboratory.

### Skills Needed for Psychology of Perception

**Question 1:**

Rearrange the following linear equation to solve for  $b$ :  $y = a + bx$   
 $b =$

**Question 2:**

Solve the following equation for  $X$ :  $y = \log(x)$   
 $x =$

**Question 3:**

Compute the arithmetic mean and the standard deviation of this sample of numbers:  
10.0, 9.0, 12.0, 11.0, 8.5, 13.0, 8.0, 10.0, 7.0, and 11.5:

$\mu =$

$\sigma =$

**Question 4:**

In an experiment, you observe the number of times six different kinds of events occur. A theoretical model makes predictions about how often these events *should* occur. These data are presented in the table below. Compute the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic to test if the observed data are significantly different from the predicted data. You may assume  $n-1=5$  degrees of freedom for the significance test.

	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6
Observed Data	174.0	172.0	104.0	92.0	41.0	8.0
Predicted Data	175.5	167.8	106.5	90.4	44.3	6.5

$\chi^2 =$

**Question 5:**

In an experiment with two levels of an independent categorical variable you observe the following values of the dependent variable for 10 subjects (five were tested under level 1 and five under level 2). Compute the mean of each group and then fit a linear model to the data using R. Is there a meaningful difference between the means of the two groups? Explain your conclusion.

Level 1		Level 2	
Subject	Dependent	Subject	Dependent
1	8.0	6	10.0
2	9.0	7	9.5
3	7.5	8	11.0
4	7.0	9	9.0
5	8.5	10	10.5
Mean		Mean	

**Question 6:**

Convert the probability 0.8413447 to a quantile score based on the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the unit normal Gaussian distribution (a quantile is a z-score). Such a transformation is achieved by the quantile function ( $q \leftarrow \text{qnorm}(p)$  in R, where  $p$  is the probability). What is the probability that a single sample drawn from a population having a Gaussian distribution with a mean of 0.0 and a standard deviation of 1.0 will have a value of 1.959964 or greater (use  $\text{pnorm}(q)$  in R)?

$q =$

$p =$

**Question 7:**

Using least-squares linear regression, compute the slope ( $a$ ) and y-intercept ( $b$ ) of the straight line,  $y = a + bx$ , that best fits this set of data. In R you can use  $\text{lm}(y \sim 1 + x)$ :

$x$	1.0	3.0	5.0	7.0	9.0
$y$	0.98	8.73	17.0	20.9	27.4

$a =$

$b =$

**Question 8:**

Plot the data in Question 7 on a graph using linear axes. The x-axis should have a range of 0.0 to 10.0 and the y-axis should range from 0.0 to 30. Use the  $\text{plot}()$  function in R.

## **AGREEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE COURSE**

The purpose of these agreements is to create a condition that allows all people in the class to get maximum value from the course.

### **AGREEMENTS**

- 1 You agree to be responsible for these agreements.
- 2 You agree to be on time to class and to your laboratory meetings.
- 3 You agree to complete the assigned reading and homework on time.
- 4 You agree to complete your laboratory assignments on time.
- 5 You agree to attend all class and laboratory meetings unless an emergency comes up.
- 6 You agree to understand the material.
- 7 You agree to ask questions when you don't understand the material.
- 8 You agree to communicate any complaints and criticisms you may have only to someone who can do something about the situation and you agree not to complain or to criticize to someone who cannot do something about the situation.
- 9 You agree to get value out of your participation in the course.

If you attend the next class meeting, you are accepting responsibility for the above agreements.

## **Statements Recommended by Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education**

### **Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Injuries](#) guidelines under the Quick Links at the [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with your professor.

### **Religious Holidays**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please let me know when you have conflicts so we can accommodate you.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and [the student code](#).

### **Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC](#)

[website](#).

### **Honor Code**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [academic integrity policy](#) of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at [honorcode.colorado.edu](http://honorcode.colorado.edu).

The following terms are clarified for the benefit of all members of the university community.

### **Cheating**

Cheating is defined as using unauthorized materials or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination or other academic exercise. Examples of cheating include: copying the work of another student during an examination or other academic exercise (includes computer programming), or permitting another student to copy one's work; taking an examination for another student or allowing another student to take one's examination; possessing unauthorized notes, study sheets, examinations, or other materials during an examination or other academic exercise; collaborating with another student during an academic exercise without the instructor's consent; and/or falsifying examination results.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgment. Examples of plagiarism include: failing to use quotation marks when directly quoting from a source; failing to document distinctive ideas from a source; fabricating or inventing sources; and copying information from computer-based sources, i.e., the Internet. Check out this web document for a detailed discussion:

(<https://ori.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/plagiarism.pdf>) .

### **Unauthorized Possession or Disposition of Academic Materials**

Unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials may include: selling or purchasing examinations, papers, reports or other academic work; taking another student's academic work without permission; possessing examinations, papers, reports, or other assignments not released by an instructor; and/or submitting the same paper for multiple classes without advance instructor authorization and approval.

Reproduced from: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy>.

## References

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