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Culture and Personality Week 7

# Cog-nition — Per-ception / Con-ception: Do you See what I See?

## *Synesthesia*

### *Making Sense of Sensory Information*

More Questions to Think About . . .

#### Midterm Exam

**This week we're going to have another look at cognition gone haywire.** On Monday we'll explore **synaesthesia**, a phenomenon where one's brain gets the signals from the senses mixed up. We'll have a look at this in, ***Synesthesia: Derek Tastes of Earwax*** (*Hearing Colours, Eating Sounds*). And on Wednesday we'll watch a video lecture on ***Making Sense of Sensory Information***.

And time permitting we'll have a little look at **ESP—Extra-Sensory-Perception**.



Speaking of *Making Sense of Sensory Information*, the color of #TheDress

recently appeared in the news again . . . .

**#TheDress couple: 'we were completely left out from the story'**

-- [BBCNews](#) (01 January 2016)

**What color is #TheDress? Before class on Wednesday have a look at this week's *Forum* and weigh in . . .**

•  **What Color is #TheDress** Forum

After watching *Making Sense of Sensory Information* it should be clear that the dress is both blue-and-black *and* white-and-gold, the color perceived depending on the context in which it is viewed <<http://www.wired.com/2015/02/science-one-agrees-color-dress/>>.

We'll be looking more at color perception in coming weeks, as the topic is central to Culture and Personality studies—and has been since W.H.R Rivers did his color experiments on the Cambridge Expedition to the Torres Strait in the late 1800s. In the meantime, have a browse at the related class WebPages . . .

[Color/Colour](#)

[Optical Illusions](#)

[Female-Male Differences in Cognition \(perception / conception\)](#)

The big Culture and Personality psychological event of next week is the Midterm Exam, in class, on Monday, 29 February 2016. Bring your laptop—the exam will be on-line.

For the Midterm Exam there will be an on-line live chat for last-minute questions the night before the exam, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.. Join the live chat *via* the Week 8 “Assignments and Activities” listings.

 **SAVE THE DATE: Live Chat -- Review for Midterm Exam, Sunday, 28 February 2016, from 7:00 - 8:00**

Details on the Midterm are available at <<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4616/cpexams.html#midterm>>.

In a nutshell, **the exam** will consist of four questions drawn at random by **Moodle** from a pool of questions generated from the questions you have submitted to the wiki, plus a few more that I will add (also included in the wiki). Use the annotated questions from the Wiki assignment of last week as **study questions**, after they have been reviewed and annotated. You can find that in the “Assignments and Activities” section of Week 6 in your **Moodle** folder.

**The exam questions will be annotated shortly, to serve as a list of study questions for the Midterm Exam, so get your question in to the Exam Question Wiki soon (if you haven't already done so) . . .**

 **REM Wiki: Contribute your question to the Midterm Exam**  
(Was due by the End of Week 6, Saturday, 20 February 2016, but you can still turn it in)

On **Monday and Wednesday of this week** we'll explore more questions on **cog-nition**.

After Spring Break we'll return to have a look at Birth Order and personality, and move on to other **“Real People, Real Places”**—*Magical Death*, and *Children's Magical Death*. . . .

Remember that it's always a good idea to share your ideas with others. You can discuss them on-line with the others in class. And you should do that.

s2016 **Student Collaboration Space**  
for your own personal use

 Wiki for Project Collaboration

The above item will be found at the top of your **Moodle** folder under “Student Collaboration Space”.

**As usual, be sure to check the activities of the week on your Moodle HomePage . . .** And next Sunday we have the **live chat for last-minute questions on the Midterm Exam. . . .**

-  **What Color is #TheDress** Forum
-  **Part 2: Project Working Bibliography and Promissory Abstract (Due by the end of Week 7, Saturday, 27 February 2016)** Assignment

- 📣 **Response to the film *Synesthesia: Derek Tastes of Earwax*** (Due by the end of Week 7—Saturday, 27 February 2016; Your Name Will Be Logged) Feedback
- 📣 **Response to the film *Making Sense of Sensory Information*** (Due by the end of Week 7—Saturday, 27 February 2016; Your Name Will Be Logged) Feedback
- 📣 **Response to the film Videoclip: "ESP"** (Due by the end of Week 7—Saturday, 27 February 2016; Your Name Will Be Logged) Feedback
- 🗨️ **And REM: Live Chat -- Review for Midterm Exam, Sunday, 28 February 2016, from 7:00 - 8:00 CDT**

The Live Chat is usually both fun and informative—time well spent, which will go by quickly.

Last Reminder: **Don't forget to practice your "Magic Eye"** <http://www.magiceye.com/3dfun/stwkdsp.shtml> and the optical illusions <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4616/cpticalillusions.html#title> experiments, and that you have a better picture of what can be normal and "real" to you.



If you were having trouble with the "Magic Eye" and the **optical illusions**—try the **"beer goggles"**—a vision of vision change after six beers

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4616/cpASC.html#beergoggles>.

**BEFORE 6 BEERS**



**AFTER 6 BEERS**

If you're mathematically inclined the "beer goggles" are explained as

$$\beta = \frac{(A_n)^2 \times \delta(S+1)}{\sqrt{L} \times (V_0)^2}$$

Remember to check the results of the class Video Responses from earlier weeks. You can find the results in the **Moodle** Blocks where they first appeared. This week have a look at . . .

-  Results--*Personality All About Me* s2016
-  Results—"Psychological Anthropology" from the *Faces of Culture* Series s2016
-  Results--*Chimp Talk* s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Everything is Relatives: William Rivers" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"New Orleans Black Indians: A Case Study in the Arts" s2016
-  Results--"Grouping by Gender, Age, Common Interests and Class" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Coming of Age: Margaret Mead" s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Margaret Mead and Samoa* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Stranger in the Mirror: An Examination of Visual Agnosia* s2016 File resource

In the meantime, if you have any general or specific questions, please let me know <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>.

Your **(1) Topics** and **(2) Readings** and **(3) Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 7 Block** of your **Moodle** folder.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs