PSYC 359: Sensation and Perception
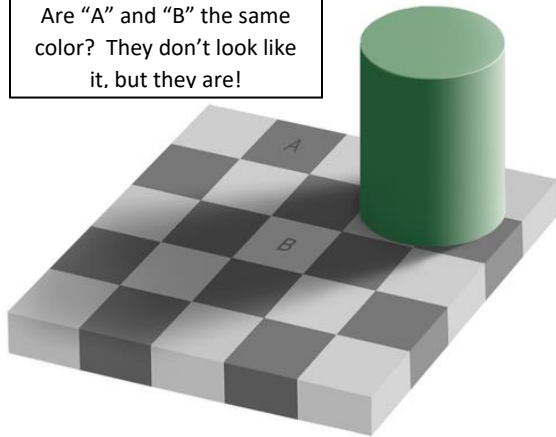
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Required Text: Wolfe, Kluender, Levi. *Sensation & Perception*, 5th Edition. (4th edition may also be OK, but not as current.)

Course Overview:

Take a moment and think about the last time you went to a movie theater. Was the film in 3-D? If so, putting on seemingly clear glasses gave the movie an illusion of depth, and taking off the glasses revealed a flat, solid screen. How does that work? When we watch, what we're really seeing is dozens of single-framed pictures presented within a single second. How does it all appear to be moving in real time? If someone in the theater is talking, you probably can't see them, but you know exactly where they are sitting in the room. How do you know where they are in space? Why is the first bite of popcorn the best? Why does it make you thirsty? Our life is filled with sensations from the world around us. How we detect those sensations and how we make sense of them -- that is the topic of our class this semester.

Are "A" and "B" the same color? They don't look like it, but they are!

Classes will be held online on WSU's PLATO (https://bbl.westfield.ma.edu). You will need to plan for this class to require a great deal of your time and attention. Each week will require multiple quizzes, two online discussions (one about a research article, one about an applied concept), and an exam. If you aren't sure if Online Learning is for you, take a quick self-evaluation here: http://www.westfield.ma.edu/plato/?page_id=41 or email me with your questions! I can't wait to meet you (online) soon!

Course Objectives: By the end of the course you should…

- Understand how we turn external, physical stimuli into something our brain can understand
- Be familiar with the 5+ senses we have – what they are and how they inform us about the world
- Apply your knowledge of sensation and perception to your everyday life
- Be exposed to and think critically about research in sensation and perception