Psychology 300/480
Sensation and Perception (Chapter 3)

To properly prepare for the test that includes this chapter you should study the material in the book and in lecture that would allow you to do the following:

1. Describe the basic principles involved in sensation and perception, including the location of these processes, the order in which they occur, the function of the processes, the activity/passivity of the processes, and the objectivity, subjectivity of the processes.
2. Describe sensory adaptation, including when and why it occurs, and what it suggests about the sensation.
3. Describe what is meant by subliminal perception, including the evidence that it is a real phenomenon. Differentiate between subliminal perception and subliminal learning.
4. Identify where and how transduction occurs in each of the five major senses. Include information about the major components and characteristics of the sensory systems (with particular attention to the visual and auditory systems).
5. Describe the major theories used to explain how our senses detect different intensities or varieties of a stimulus (i.e., trichromatic theory, opponent-process theory, place theory, frequency theory, volley theory, lock-and-key theory).
6. Describe the basic perceptual grouping principles that we use to make sense of our sensations (e.g., figure-ground, closure, etc.), and understand other basic principles by which our perceptual processes seem to be governed.
7. Describe the most commonly accepted psychological explanation for the moon-illusion.
8. Describe the most commonly accepted psychological explanation for the Muller-Lyer illusion, and understand any relationship between this illusion and the moon illusion.
9. Describe the concepts of perceptual set, bottom-up processing, and top-down processing.
10. Describe the idea of ESP and understand why psychologists generally don’t accept it as valid.