PERCEPTUAL AMBIGUITY
ALTERING YOUR PERCEPTION

• Love is blind.
• Can’t see the forest for the trees.
• “When you look up in the sky, you can see the stars but still not see the light.”
How can we have 20/20 vision and still not see correctly?

The answer lies with the difference between sight and perception –
- a physical act involving the senses
- and a mental action involving the neurological and cognitive processes.
ALTERING YOUR PERCEPTION

• What we see isn’t always what’s there to be seen or all there is to be seen.
• Sometimes we see only what we want to see or only see part of what is there or only the obvious level.
• Sometimes, it’s scary the gap between what we see vs. what is there.
So….one goal of this class is to get you to perceive *more*

to perceive *differently*

to perceive *better*

While the demonstration to follow is wholly *visual*, know that our aim concerns the *mental* – *how you think*. 
ALTERING YOUR PERCEPTION

- *see the world differently*

- *see the Matrix*
THE MATRIX

• YES, the Matrix *does* have you.
• You are a *slave*.
• “Like everyone else, you were born into bondage.
• Into a prison that you cannot taste or see or touch.

A prison for your mind.”
Socrates, Plato, Bertrand Russell:

- The person *who has no tincture of CRITICAL THINKING goes through life imprisoned*
- and enslaved under *the tyranny of custom*
  - the unquestioning mind
  - the accepting, gullible, credulous mind
  - *imprisoned* in the CAVE of ignorance
CRITICAL THINKING

A PRISON of the MIND:

• *not* a slave of the body - physical toil, whipping
• *but* a slave of the mind
  – *like* slavery, no freedom of thought
  – *ignorance = form of CONTROL*
• told what to *think, believe, do*
• *no* understanding, no questioning
• *no* freedom of thought, choice
• *others’ words, thoughts, values*
CRITICAL THINKING

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS:

• BUT there is a way out of bondage

• Critical Thinking
  – that vague & often ill-defined or undefined set of abilities
  – that only teachers seem to be interested in
  – and put on their syllabi with all that other edu-babble
CRITICAL THINKING

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS:

• Definition:
  – thinking deeply, differently
    • thinking for yourself
  – decision-making & problem-solving
  – pursuing knowledge, truth
  – comprehending, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating
  – connecting, distinguishing, inferring, ordering, accounting
  – being open-minded, flexible in thought
  – searching, questioning

• “It is the question that drives us.”
You take the Blue Pill,
The story Ends. You wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe.
You take the Red Pill,
You stay in Wonderland and I show You how deep the rabbit hole goes

I'm only offering you the TRUTH...
Nothing more.
HIDDEN in PLAIN SIGHT
HIDDEN in PLAIN SIGHT
HIDDEN in PLAIN SIGHT
HIDDEN in PLAIN SIGHT
PERCEPTUAL AMBIGUITY

DUCK ⇐
PERCEPTUAL AMBIGUITY

RABBIT →
PERCEPTUAL AMBIGUITY

BOTH ←→
PERCEPTUAL AMBIGUITY

YOUNG and/or OLD MAN
PERCEPTUAL AMBIGUITY
PERCEPTUAL AMBIGUITY
UNCONVENTIONAL THINKING
UNCONVENTIONAL THINKING

WHAT IS HALF OF 8?

• Most will say
  – 4
    • $8 \div 2$
    • $4 \times 2$
    • $4 + 4$
WHAT IS HALF OF 8?

• BUT...what if I told you the correct answer was
  – 3
  – 0
  – E
UNCONVENTIONAL THINKING

Crossword Puzzles:

- Leading man? 4
- Grecian vessel? 3
- The 3rd degree? 3
- Short occupation? 3
- Arrow shooter? 4
- Rubber of myth? 7
- Crafts companion? 4
- Foreign one? 4
- Annual quartet? 7
- Flag carrier? 3
- Drop cloths? 10
- Greek leader? 5

• Adam, urn, PhD, job/biz, Eros
• Aladdin, arts, eins, seasons
• Ref, parachutes, alpha
HEAD GAMES

If our senses can be tricked, then how do we know what’s really real?
HEAD GAMES
HEAD GAMES
THINK CRITICALLY:

Or....

- You can go through life
SHEEPLE:

- “We the Sheeple”
- I think what I’m told to think, act how I’m told to act, buy what I’m told to buy
- I have Blind Faith in all my leaders
- I cannot think for myself
  – And I am unwilling to learn how
- I feed in a pasture of lies
- I gobble up processed information in pretty little sound bites
- I trudge through the fecal matter dropped by those I mindlessly follow & repost it for those mindlessly following me
- I ignorantly believe what I see on television, scan on the Internet, and skim in the newspapers
- I thoughtlessly copy down & then regurgitate what I am told in school - when I go, when I pay attention
- I am easily led
- I willingly follow
- I heedlessly obey
SHEEPLE:

- I question nothing
- I assume everything
- I feed at the trough of ignorance, laziness, and apathy
- I am meek, mild, & weak
- I conform, I follow, I obey
- Ignorance, complacency, conformity, gullibility, indifference
- Because I do not think, I am easily controlled through my emotions
- I fear what I do not understand, I do not understand because I obey, I obey because I do not question, I do not question because I am afraid
- Any shepherd will do
- The flock is security
- But I’m not the sheep, you’re the sheep!
SHEEPLE:

• “A nation of sheep will be governed by wolves.”
  – Edward R. Murrow

• “Democracy is 2 wolves and a sheep/lamb voting on what to have for dinner.”
  – Ben Franklin?