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Course Description:

This course concerns to how people make sense of sensory input – in particular light and sound. We will compare sensation and perception across a number of domains, including vision, audition, touch, olfaction, and taste, as well as examine some non-human sensory systems such as biosonar and electrosensory. Critical to the understanding of sensation and perception is understanding the methodologies and experimental procedures used to examine the issues. This course will explore these methodologies including traditional measures like psychophysics and signal-detection analysis to newer cognitive neuroscience approaches. We will also discuss disorders and diseases of sensation and perception. Here we will distinguish from peripheral problems (such as damage to the eyes) from central problems (such as damage to the brain) and how these problems differ. We will also consider the myriad way in which research on sensation and perception has applications in many fields, from medicine to civil engineering to sports.

Course Goals:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

• Recognize the major concepts in sensation and perception and demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in sensation and perception  
• Identify the tools of research methodology in perception and psychophysics and cognitive neuroscience and how it applies to everyday life.  
• Distinguish and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems relating to perceptual processes.  
• Analyze and compare scientific arguments, and formulate a view on the relation of brain, mind, and behavior.

Required Text, Canvas, and Materials:

**Canvas:** If you aren’t already comfortable with the Canvas platform (http://elearning.ufl.edu; click “Log in to e-Learning”), I highly suggest that you spend some time exploring its various components. It’s our everything portal; the repository for all of the resources you’ll need to make your way through the course. Announcements will be made periodically about class issues (such as when grades are posted). These will be visible on Canvas. Students are responsible for all announcements made there. Thus you must check Canvas on a daily basis so you don’t miss any course announcement.

**Course Structure:**

**Modules:** To make the class easier for you I have standardized the opening and due dates of all modules and assignments throughout the course. Aside from Module 14, which is a little over 1 week to account for Thanksgiving, every other module throughout the semester will be 1-week long. Most modules (except for Modules 3 and 13, because of holidays) will begin on Monday at 12am and will end the following Sunday at 11:59pm. Quizzes will be due on the last day of the module at 11:59pm (usually a Sunday), while discussion posts will have 2 due dates. Your initial discussion post will be due on Thursday at 11:59pm and your responses to at least two fellow student’s discussion posts will be due on the last day of the module at 11:59pm. **For exam dates see the Exam section below. Also, see the course schedule below for clear due dates for all assignments during each module.**

**Quizzes:** Three days before the end of each module I’ll open up a 10-question multiple-choice quiz on Canvas. They’ll be timed, such that you won’t be able to look up answers quickly enough without knowing exactly where to look, so preparation’s important. These quizzes are non-cumulative, thus they will focus on the current material being covered that week/module. Also, the questions will be randomly selected from a large question pool so each person’s quiz will differ. Quizzes for each module will be due at the end of each module/week at 11:59pm. There will be 14 quizzes in total, one for each module, each worth 10 points (1 point per question): 13 quizzes x (10 questions x 1 points each) = 130 points total. Thus your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Discussion Posts:** Starting with module 1 we will have a discussion post about every other module with the total number of posts being 5. Your posts will consist of an initial post which will entail you addressing the topic posed by me as well as two follow up responses to one of your fellow students’ posts. The purpose of these posts is for you to think critically about a topic and share your thoughts with your fellow students. The posts will likely change format from one to the next, but I will provide you with a detailed rubric for each post so you will have a clear understanding of what I am looking for in that particular post. I will open the post at the beginning of each module as well as post the rubric. Remember I will open the discussion post at the beginning of each module (i.e., Monday at 12am) and your initial discussion post will be due on Thursday at 11:59pm and your responses to a fellow student’s discussion post will be due on the last day of the module at 11:59pm. The reason behind having 2 due dates for this assignment is to make sure that you give everyone ample time to read your post and create a thoughtful response. Hopefully this will allow for some really great discussions!!! To earn your full points, make sure you fully answer/address each component in the initial post and provide a
thoughtful response to a fellow student’s post. There will be 5 posts in total each worth 10 points each: 4 posts x 10 points = 40 points total. Thus, your lowest discussion post will be dropped.

**Exams:** The last part of your grade is comprised of 4 non-cumulative exams that will be both multiple choice and open ended. Each exam will have 45 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each and 1 short answer worth 10 points, thus, each exam will be worth 100 points: 3 x 100 = 300 points total. Thus, the lowest exam will be dropped.

You will take your exam using Proctor U which is a service that will monitor you while you take the exam to ensure the integrity of the exam. Please see the Proctor U section in our course for more information about this service (also see: [https://www.proctoru.com/portal/ufl/howitworks](https://www.proctoru.com/portal/ufl/howitworks)). To allow you sufficient time to study and to complete your assignments for each week exams will be given on the Monday after the completion of the required Modules for that Exam. For example, Exam 1 will cover Modules 1-4 but the exam will be given on the Monday of Module 5. You will have 75 minutes to take your exam and can take the exam anytime between 12am and 11:59pm on the Monday it is scheduled for. **Make up exams will only be allowed if you can show documentation of a serious emergency (e.g., medical, death of a loved one, etc.) and all make up exams will be in essay format.** Please see the schedule below for each Exam date and the Modules that will be covered on each exam.

**Grading Procedure:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your final grade will include 13 quizzes, 4 discussion posts, and 3 exams. **The following scale will be used to determine final grades, I will not round up final grades under any circumstances:**

- A = 93 – 100%
- A- = 90 – 92%
- B+ = 87 – 89%
- B = 83 - 86%
- B- = 80 - 82%
- C+ = 77 - 79%
- C = 73 – 76%
- C- = 70 – 72%
- D+ = 67 – 69%
- D = 63- 66%
- D- = 60 – 62%
- E = 0 – 59%

At any time, you may calculate your grade by adding up the number of points earned, dividing that sum by the number of points attempted, and multiplying the result by 100. Information about UF’s current grading policies may be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)
Our Class Policies

Late Work and Make ups:
An example: You have been very busy all week so you keep putting off taking that online quiz for your favorite class, Sensory Processes. It is finally time for you to take the quiz so you put on your most comfortable Snuggie, crawl into your memory foam bed and turn on your notebook to take the quiz and then you say, “Son of a &^%*&!” because your internet goes out so you have no way of accessing the quiz now. You look at the clock and now there is only 20 minutes before the deadline so you don’t even have time go to a local Starbucks to access the internet. So you email me panicked, telling me about this horrible situation and plead for me to allow you to take the quiz late. Well unfortunately, unlike Lloyd Christmas who famously said “So you're telling me there's a chance. YEAH!”, you have NO chance of earning points for late work so please make sure you turn your assignments in on time. So please, please, please, please be responsible and make sure you do not wait until the last minute to do any of your graded assignments. Makeup are only allowed for Exams (as stated above). Because you have the entire week to complete your quiz and post the only situation you would be able to make up either of these is if you have a serious emergency that would preclude you from working for over a week and you will need to provide documentation. Of note, if the Canvas website experiences course wide technical difficulties deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Grade Disputes: For all graded assignments, you will have 1 week from the day your grades are released to dispute your grade, after which your grade will become final and can no longer be disputed. Obviously, just because you dispute your grade DOES NOT mean your grade will be changed in your favor. Also, this should not be a default reaction to any low grade you receive, please only pursue this route when you are confident that you can make a case that an error occurred. If you wish to dispute a grade you must email me to inform me that you wish to dispute your grade. Then you must attend office hours and be ready to provide a sound argument based on empirical evidence. Any changes to grades will be made solely at the discretion of your professor.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. “Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an “E” for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing registration at UF, every student has agreed to the following statement: “I
understand that UF expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” Please make sure you understand the UF Student Honor Code.

I Need Help!!!
Ok, so maybe you are not a very tech savvy person or Canvas is giving you some strange error message and when you google it you still can’t fix it. Don’t panic we are here to help 24/7! For technical issues like this you should contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2

Submit a question via the Helpdesk website If they are still of no help (which from my experience they are very helpful) then you should contact me Dr. Brian Cahill: brian.cahill@ufl.edu or the teaching assistant you have been assigned to using your last name (see the top of the syllabus for their contact info). Aside from technical help my teaching assistants and myself are here to help you however we can with course related questions. We love our jobs and our students very much so please don’t be afraid to ask for help! We are good at what we do and will do whatever we can to help you succeed in this course. However, when you email us please keep in mind a couple of things and I know this will come off as condescending and I am sorry but you would put this in your syllabus if you received the kinds of inappropriate emails I receive from students on a regular basis: 1) Your emails should be formal when you write to us, we are not your brother/sister, bff, or bae so please address us properly using appropriate terms (e.g., Dr. Cahill, Professor Cahill), 2) We have hundreds of students in multiple classes so please give us your full name, what class you are in, and which section in every email you write to us, and 3) Please spell check your email and use proper grammar so we can understand your question/issue.

Course Evaluations:
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing GatorRater online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students on the GatorRater Public Results page.

U Matter, We Care:
Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments (all Assignments Due at 11:59pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 (8-20 to 8-25) | Course Introduction Introduction to Perception | Chapter 1 | Due: Quiz 1 8/25  
Due: Initial Discussion Post 8/22; Response Posts 8/25  
Due: Syllabus Quiz (Must take and pass with 100% to open up Modules 2 - 14) 8/21 |
| 2 (8/26 to 9-1) | The Beginnings of the Perceptual Process | Chapter 2 | Due: Quiz 2 9/1 |
| 3 (9-3 to 9-8) | Neural Processing | Chapter 3 | Due: Initial Discussion Post 9/5; Response Posts 9/8  
Due: Quiz 3 9/8 |
| 4 (9-9 to 9-15) | Cortical Organization | Chapter 4 | Due: Quiz 4 9/15 |
| 5 (9-16 to 9-22) | Perceiving Objects and Scenes | Chapter 5 | Due: Initial Discussion Post 9/19; Response Posts 9/22  
Due: Quiz 5 9/22  
Exam 1: Chapters 1-4, Take between 12am and 11:59pm on 9/16 |
| 6 (9-23 to 9-29) | Visual Attention | Chapter 6 | Due: Quiz 6 9-29 |
| 7 (9-30 to 10-6) | Taking Action | Chapter 7 | Due: Quiz 7 10/6 |
| 8 (10-7 to 10-13) | Perceiving Motion | Chapter 8 | Due: Quiz 8 10/13 |
| 9 (10-14 to 10-20) | Perceiving Color | Chapter 9 | Due: Quiz 9 10/20  
Exam 2: Chapters 5-8, Take between 12am and 11:59pm on 10/14 |
| 10 (10-21 to 10-27) | Hearing | Chapter 11 | Due: Quiz 10 10/27  
Due: Initial Discussion Post 10/24; Response Posts 10/27 |
| 11 (10-28 to 11-3) | Hearing II: Location and Organization | Chapter 12 | Due: Quiz 11 11/3 |
| 12 (11-4 to 11-10) | Perceiving Depth and Size | Chapter 10 | Due: Quiz 12 11/10  
Exam 3: Chapters 9, 11, and 12; Take between 12am and 11:59pm on 11/4 |
| 13 (11-12 to 11-17) | The Cutaneous Senses | Chapter 14 | Due: Initial Discussion Post 11/14; Response Posts 11/17  
Due: Quiz 13 11/17 |
| 14(11-18 to 12-4) | The Chemical Senses | Chapter 15 | Due: Quiz 14 12/4  
Exam 4: Chapters 10, 14, and 15; Take between 12am and 11pm on 12/9 |

**This syllabus is tentative and subject to change**