PSB 4934: Neuroscience of Consciousness
Ryan P. Mears
Fall 2018

E-mail: mears@ufl.edu  Web: ufl.instructure.com/courses/354680
Office Hours: W 10:45-11:45 a.m.  Class Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:55 - (2:45) 3:50 p.m.
Office: 357 Psychology Building  Class Room: 151 Psychology Building

Course Description

Conscious awareness is a hallmark of human experience. In this class we will consider cutting edge research of brain mechanisms and neural signs as we discuss abnormal, disrupted, and non-human consciousness.

Relevant topics to this course will include:
- anesthesia
- coma
- dreams
- free-will
- hallucinations
- hallucinogens
- illusions
- imagination
- sleep

Course Objectives

1. Understand phenomenology, theories, and potential functions of consciousness
2. Learn to differentiate correlations versus causes of conscious processes
3. Learn about cutting edge research on the neural underpinnings of conscious awareness

Required Readings


Recommended Readings

Class Schedule

Students must read the following before Tuesday’s class session. Important: class readings are subject to change, contingent on mitigating circumstances and the progress we make as a class. Students are encouraged to attend lectures and check the course website for updates.

Table 1: Schedule of chapter topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>Dehaene, 2014</th>
<th>Nunez, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>08/20 - 08/24</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>08/27 - 08/31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>09/03 - 09/07</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>09/10 - 09/14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>09/17 - 09/21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>09/24 - 09/28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/01 - 10/05</td>
<td>Exam 1 (due Oct 1)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/08 - 10/12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/15 - 10/19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/22 - 10/26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10/29 - 11/02</td>
<td>Exam 2 (due Oct 29)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/05 - 11/09</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/12 - 11/16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/19 - 11/23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/26 - 11/30</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/03 - 12/07</td>
<td>Exam 3 (due Dec 10)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Policy

- 60% of your grade will be determined by exams during normal class hours.
- 25% of your grade will be determined by five assignments (5% each) including presentations and response papers.
- 15% of your grade will be determined by your attendance and participation in class. Generally, ask questions and answer them. (But, try to answer more of others’ questions than your own.)

Make-Up Exam Policy

There are NO make-ups for missed exams. Don’t bother asking.

EXAMS: Throughout the semester there will be three exams; Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer/essay questions. Each exam will comprise 20% of the course grade (i.e., total 60% of course grade). Final grades for the course will be determined by UF undergraduate guidelines: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

ASSIGNMENTS: More information will be provided about presentations & response papers.
DISCUSSION & PARTICIPATION: Discussion and participation will account for 15% of the final grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx) and require appropriate documentation.

UF HONESTY POLICY: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA in this class.

CLASS EVALUATIONS: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. 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 at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER: Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
Class Discussions


