Sensory Processes – EXP3104

Instructor: Ryan Mears, Ph.D.

Spring

E-mail: `See email policy on Canvas, mears at ufl dot edu`   Web: Canvas
Office Hours: Wednesday 10 AM   Office: Zoom Conference
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Welcome to Sensory Processes! This course is a comprehensive neurobiological exploration dedicated to unraveling how our bodies convert external stimuli into complex internal representations and interpretations, ultimately experienced as perception. This course delves into the marvels of neurobiological mechanisms, offering an in-depth examination of the sophisticated interplay between our sensory organs and the brain, which underpins our everyday experiences. In the end, perception endeavors to apprehend the true nature of the world "out there" rather than merely encode what the senses take in.

Course Aims and Learning Objectives

1. **In-depth Understanding of Sensory Mechanisms**: We will investigate the neurophysiological and neurobiological aspects of our senses - sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Our goal is foundational understanding of physical environment perception and factors influencing perception.
2. **Examination of Perception and Neural Processes**: Delve into understanding the neural pathways that transform sensory input into meaningful experiences. Exploration of nervous system & sensation relationships reveals how the brain decodes & interprets signals from the world around us.
3. **Application to Real-World Contexts**: By contextualizing theory with practical examples, this course will illuminate the significance of sensory and perceptual processes in everyday life. Insights gained will transfer to and enhance our understanding of human experience.

This course is a journey into understanding the true nature of how we perceive the world. It promises to be an enlightening exploration that will challenge and expand your understanding of yourself and the world. I look forward to guiding you through this fascinating terrain and encourage you to bring your insights and experiences to enrich our collective learning experience.

Week	Dates	Exams & Quizzes	Sensation and Perception Chapter
1	01/13 - 01/17		
2	01/20 - 01/24		1 – Introduction to Perception
3	01/27 - 01/31		2 – Beginning of Perception
4	01/03 - 02/07		3 – Neural Processing
5	02/10 - 02/09		4 – Cortical Organization
6	02/17 - 02/16		5 – Objects and Scenes
7	02/24 - 02/23	**Exam 1**	6 – Visual Attention
8	03/03 - 03/01		7 – Action
9	03/10 - 03/08		8 – Motion
10	03/17 - 03/15	**Spring Break**	
11	03/24 - 03/22	**Exam 2**	9 – Color
12	03/31 - 04/04		10 – Depth and Size
13	04/07 - 04/11		11 – Hearing
14	04/14 - 04/18		12 – Auditory Localization
15	04/21 - 04/25		14 – Cutaneous Senses Part 1&2
16	04/22 - 04/26	**Exam 3**	

Goldstein, E Bruce and James Brockmole (2016). *Sensation and perception*. Cengage Learning.

Grading

- 60**%** of grade will be determined by exams.
- 42**%** of grade will be determined by quizzes.
- **2%** of grade will be determined by SONA Research Experience or writing assignments.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	S
100	92.5	89.5	86	82.5	79.5	76	72.5	69.5	66	62.5	59.5
93	90	86.5	83	80	76.5	73	70	66.5	63	60	0

For more information go to: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

NOTE: Please print out this document. Please remember I reserve the right to revise the syllabus in order to accommodate the needs of the course. In case of any updates, please pay attention to announcements.

Course Policies.

EXAMS: This course includes three exams, and the third exam is not comprehensive, focusing solely on the most recent content. Each will test your understanding through various formats like multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer/essay questions.

ASSIGNMENTS & QUIZZES: Engaging with quizzes will contribute significantly to your course grade. These activities are designed to deepen your comprehension and ability to apply the material as you progress through readings and lectures.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Goldstein, E Bruce and James Brockmole (2016). *Sensation and perception*. Cengage Learning. This course is part of the UF All Access program, ensuring you have digital access to all necessary materials at a reduced cost, chargeable to your student account. This arrangement is crucial for your successful completion of the course material.

PROCTORING: To ensure fairness for everyone on the class, exams will be proctored online using HonorLock. The goal of proctoring in this course is balance fairness during assessment with ease of use. This system integrates seamlessly with Canvas, offering convenience and support without requiring prior scheduling. Honorlock technical support is immediately available by chat before exams and during the exams. Please familiarize yourself with HonorLock's minimum requirements early in the semester and complete the practice quiz to ensure your readiness. At the start of the semester please examine and ensure the minimum requirements for your learning environment, and take the practice quiz in Canvas. https://honorlock.com/support/

QUIZ POLICY: Quizzes are accessible for at least one week before their due date. They are designed to assess your understanding of the course material and will disappear after the deadline. Each quiz is time-limited to encourage prompt responses. Remember, discussions or sharing quiz content is a serious violation of the academic integrity policy and will be addressed accordingly. Students who share or attempt to share information pertaining to course content in the form that is assessed in quizzes or exams will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (SCCR) Office in the Dean of Students Office. https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/ Honor code violations for quizzes will result in grade sanctions of a 20% point-value reduction on the assignment (i.e., two letter-grades). For more on this go to page 5 of the syllabus.

Preparing for Quizzes: To maximize your quiz performance, thoroughly review the textbook sections and lectures. You'll have a single attempt for each quiz, so ensure you're well-prepared and understand the material beforehand.

EXAM POLICY: Exams are strictly scheduled as per the course syllabus and are also time-bound. Like quizzes, you will have one opportunity to take each exam. Timely completion is crucial for maintaining the course schedule and ensuring a fair assessment environment. Each online exam will be available during only on the date specified in this syllabus. Each exam has a time limit of 60 minutes, and the exam window will cease activity (i.e., automatically close) at the end of the 60 minutes. You have only a single opportunity to take each exam. All online quizzes and examinations must be completed on time (i.e. by the due date and time). Exams summarize what has been learned in the course for a set of modules. Feedback will not be provided on exams in order to support the validity of material for comparison from year to year across classes. Honor code violations for an exam will result in grade sanctions of a 20% point-value reduction on the exam (i.e., two letter-grades). For more information go to page 5.

LATE POLICY To avoid any potential technical issues, it's advisable to complete quizzes and assignments ahead of the deadline. Late submissions will incur a penalty, reducing your score by 10% per day. Planning ahead and familiarizing yourself with the syllabus schedule can help mitigate last-minute issues.

Situations where adjustments will not be made

- *Travel* – It's your responsibility to take quizzes before travelling. In cases where air travel during an exam day will occur proof of travel will be required, and students are responsible to take the exam as soon as possible after travel.
- *Internet Connection Problem* – Ensure you're located in a place with a stable internet connection for all course activities. UF Library West provides dedicated rooms for online assessments which can be reserved in advance. To make a reservation for a time of high demand go to the following website: http://ufl.libcal.com/spaces?lid=4458&gid=8873
- *Technical Problems From Other Causes* – For any other technical difficulties, a support ticket from HonorLock or the UF help desk is necessary. Engage actively with support teams to resolve issues promptly. Instructors will need this documentation to make any adjustments. Technical support from these services will be necessary diagnose and certify the source of any problem. *In fact, causes of connection problems, hardware, or other software problems can be adequately diagnosed, so students are encouraged to actively troubleshoot with support personnel.*

EMERGENCIES: In cases of unavoidable emergencies contact **teaching assistants AND instructor** on Canvas. Emergency inquiries typically receive a response in 48 hrs. (i.e.,excluding weekends or holidays.)

- Personal medical emergencies will require a letter from a licensed medical professional.
- University sanctioned activities will require advance letter from a University official.
- Approvals of an exception for religious observance must be made several days in advance.

CLASS EVALUATIONS: We greatly value your feedback as it plays a crucial role in the continuous improvement of this course. You are invited to share your insights and experiences by participating in the course evaluations. Constructive, professional, and respectful feedback is highly appreciated and contributes to the educational excellence we strive for.

Instructions and support for providing thoughtful and respectful feedback are accessible for all students. When the evaluation period begins, you will receive a notification, and you can submit your evaluations directly through the link provided in the email from GatorEvals. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Your perspectives not only enrich the teaching and learning experience but also empower future iterations of the course. After evaluations are concluded, summaries of the results will be made available, demonstrating how your contributions foster an engaging and effective learning environment.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/).

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.

POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT Sexual Harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex would otherwise be irrelevant. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of state and federal laws as well as of the policies and regulations of the university. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF's sexual harassment policy which can be found here: https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/. Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy. As mandatory reporters, university employees are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF's Title IX coordinator. For more information about UF's Title IX office see: https://titleix.ufl.edu/. You can also complete a Sexual Harassment Report online (Title IX) at: https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/.
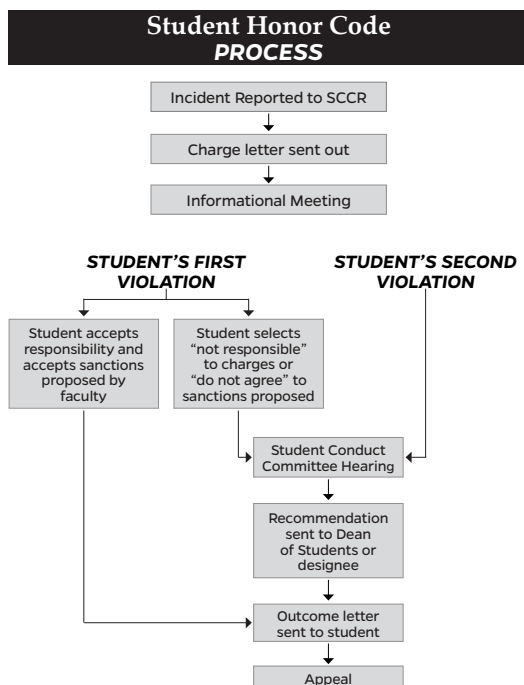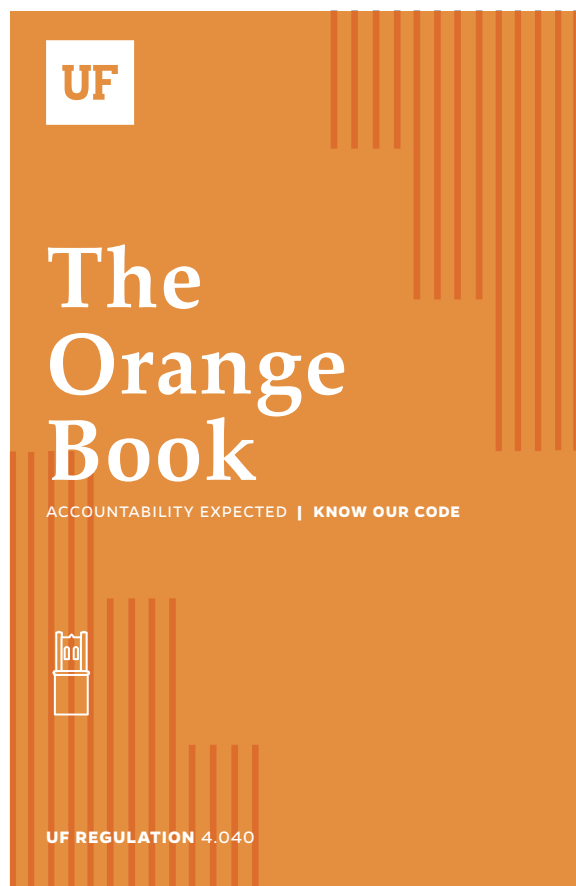
Health and Wellness Campus Resources.

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Campus Resources.

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.
- On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES: The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Academic integrity, as a shared value, is dependent on the mustual trust and respect by all members of an academic community. Cheating threatens all who are part of this shared system, and therefore, it's essential to report any violations to the UF SCCR Office. Please encourage others to act with respect for their community.

UF

The Orange Book

ACCOUNTABILITY EXPECTED | **KNOW OUR CODE**

UF REGULATION 4.040

Student Honor Code
PROCESS

Incident Reported to SCCR

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Charge letter sent out

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Informational Meeting

STUDENT'S FIRST VIOLATION   **STUDENT'S SECOND VIOLATION**

Student accepts responsibility and accepts sanctions proposed by faculty

Student selects "not responsible" to charges or "do not agree" to sanctions proposed

↓

Student Conduct Committee Hearing

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Recommendation sent to Dean of Students or designee

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Outcome letter sent to student

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Appeal

3. Violations of the Student Honor Code

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student 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."

A. CHEATING.
A Student cannot use unauthorized materials or resources in any academic activity for academic advantage or benefit. Cheating includes but is not limited to:
1. Using any materials or resources prepared by another Student without the other Student's express Consent or without proper attribution to the other Student.
2. Using any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to the Student.
3. Using additional time, or failing to stop working when instructed, on any time-bound academic activity.
4. Failing to follow the directions of a proctor of any academic activity, when such conduct could lead to an academic advantage or benefit.
5. Collaborating with another person, through any medium, on any academic activity, when Faculty has expressly prohibited collaboration.

B. COMPLICITY IN VIOLATING THE STUDENT HONOR CODE.
Attempting, aiding, encouraging, facilitating, abetting, conspiring to commit, hiring someone else to commit, giving or receiving bribes to secure, or being a participant (by act or omission) in any act prohibited by the Student Honor Code.

C. FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION.
A Student cannot use unauthorized materials or resources in any academic activity for academic advantage or benefit. Cheating includes but is not limited to:
1. A Student must not make a false or misleading statement during the Investigation or resolution of an alleged Student Honor Code violation.
2. A Student must not make a false or misleading statement for the purpose of procuring an improper academic advantage for any Student.
3. A Student must not use or present fabricated information, falsified research, or other findings if the Student knows or reasonably should be aware that the information, research, or other finding is fabricated or falsified.

D. INTERFERENCE WITH AN ACADEMIC ACTIVITY.
1. A Student must not take any action or take any material for the purpose of interfering with an academic activity, through any means over any medium.
2. A Student must not be disruptive to the testing environment or other academic activity.

E. PLAGIARISM.
A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

F. SUBMISSION OF ACADEMIC WORK PURCHASED OR OBTAINED FROM AN OUTSIDE SOURCE.
A Student must not submit as their own work any academic work in any form that the Student purchased or otherwise obtained from an outside source, including but not limited to: academic materials in any form prepared by a commercial or individual vendor of academic materials; a collection of research papers, tests, or academic materials maintained by a Student Organization or other entity or person, or any other sources of academic work.

G. UNAUTHORIZED RECORDINGS.
A Student must not, without express authorization from Faculty, make or receive any Recording, through any means over any medium, of any academic activity, including but not limited to a Recording of any class or of any meeting with Faculty. Students registered with the Disability Resource Center who are provided reasonable accommodations that include allowing such Recordings must inform Faculty before making such Recordings.