

# EXP 4174C

## Sensory Processes Laboratory

University of Florida  
Fall 2025

**Meeting Times:** M,W 8:30-10:25 (section 0453)  
M,W 10:40-12:35 (section 3540)

**Location:** PSY 191

**Instructor:** Matt (Wendel) Friedl, Ph.D.

**Office hours:** One hour immediately following class. Other days/times by request, in-person or via Zoom.

**email:** Please use Canvas messaging; alternate email: wfriedl@ufl.edu

**Office:** Psychology 017 (basement level)

\*I reserve the right to revise the syllabus to accommodate the needs of the course. Any updates will be posted to the course announcements section of Canvas.

Graduate TA
Sara Aslani

**email:** Please use Canvas messaging to contact TAs; office hours meetings are available by appointment with advanced notice.

**This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).**

### Contents (Ctrl+click to follow link)

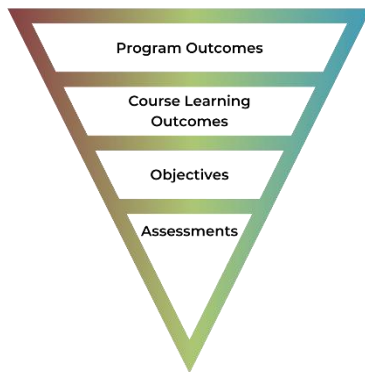
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### Course Description

This lab provides hands-on experience in the methods and approaches of perceptual psychophysics. Students will collect, analyze, and evaluate data related to sensory and perceptual abilities, summarizing results in written lab reports. The emphasis here is “hands-on”: Attendance and *active* participation in conducting the experiments is the factor that distinguishes this upper-level laboratory course from others you may have taken.

The primary objective of this course is to gain firsthand knowledge of the connection between physical sensations of the world and how we measure, report, and study those sensations and translate them into the perceptions of our everyday experiences.

While we will use computer programs (mostly MATLAB and a spreadsheet such as Excel or Google Sheets) and some statistics, the emphasis of this course is on concepts, not on the particular applications used to study those concepts or produce the experimental paradigms.



### Course Learning Objectives

Three overarching **outcomes** of this course are: 1) To gain background understanding of the history and theory of psychophysical testing; 2) To familiarize students with the methods and techniques of psychophysics; 3) To conduct sensory psychophysical experiments and write-up the results, gaining an appreciation of how measurable sensations give rise to perceptual experience.

Accomplishment of course learning **objectives** will be assessed (see **grading** section of syllabus for details) via quizzes, research reports, and course attendance and participation.

### Course Requirements and Policies



#### Required Readings

All readings will be from primary source articles or opensource (free) textbooks and will be provided on the course Canvas page.

#### Course Prerequisite

An introductory course in psychology (PSY 2012).

### Other Requirements

- ACCESS TO OFFICIAL UF E-MAIL

Check your UF e-mail regularly (daily). All course announcements, including any modifications to this syllabus, will be communicated via e-mail and Canvas announcements. Any grade-related information will only be sent to a UF e-mail address or discussed in-person.

- COMPUTING / TECHNOLOGY

This course requires adherence UF's minimum technology requirements (recommendations [here](#)). These include a computer with webcam, microphone, speakers, and access to a stable internet connection.

A wired connection is recommended when taking quizzes and/or exams.

- A dedicated room for online assessments is available in UF Library West. To make a reservation for a time of high demand go to the following website: <http://ufl.libcal.com/spaces?lid=4458&gid=8873>
- Other on-campus computer options can be found here <https://labs.at.ufl.edu/>

For technical support, contact the UF Help Desk: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>.

In the event of a technical problem, a support ticket must be obtained from the UF help desk. Technical support will be able to diagnose and certify the source of any problem. Course instructor will not respond regarding *any* technical problems that do not have a prior support ticket from the UF helpdesk—include this support ticket # when communicating the problem.

- CANVAS

Course materials and assignments will be posted to the course Canvas page (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>; click “Canvas Login”)

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the page and how/where to access information during the first week of class.

### Course Policies

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>

- MAKE UP POLICY FOR MISSED QUIZZES OR READINGS

**Any extension to due dates listed in the syllabus is contingent upon receipt of documentation within 24 hours of the regularly scheduled due date.**

Extensions will only occur in extreme circumstances. A Dean of Students note (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>) verifying documentation of illness or a personal matter should be provided for extended periods of absence. All requests for completing assigned work at days or times other than provided in the syllabus should be submitted well in advance of the regularly scheduled assignment. In emergency situations where advance notice is not possible, provide notice and documentation **within 24 hours** (1 day) of the due date for the scheduled assignment..

Note that **an e-mail prior to class will not be considered sufficient**, unless it is just to provide notice that you will be missing class and that some form of corroborating documentation is forthcoming.

Due dates for quizzes will be adjusted according to the number of days outlined in supporting documentation. For example, if a doctor’s note states that a student should be excused for a Friday class period and can return to school on Monday, due dates will be adjusted by 1 business day such that a quiz lab report due on Friday would need to be completed by the end of the day on Monday.

- ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). **Accommodations are not retroactive**, so students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodation. Documentation should be provided prior to taking quizzes or exams – the earlier the better. The

Dean of Students Office will provide documentation (an accommodation letter) to the student and the instructor.

- RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES / UF SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Documentation is not required, but a student needs to inform the instructor if religious observances of their faith or UF sponsored activities (e.g. sports, student government, etc.) will conflict with scheduled quizzes or examinations **prior to** the class or occurrence of that test or activity.

- ILLNESS OR OTHER PERSONAL EMERGENCIES

For any medical conditions, psychological conditions, illnesses, or injuries that prevent completing scheduled quizzes or examinations, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible and arrange to provide supporting documentation. The student healthcare center (<https://shcc.ufl.edu>) can provide verifications of visits, as well as excuse notes in certain situations (see <https://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/>).

- Counseling and wellness center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
- University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

- 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. 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/>.

- COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the e-mail they receive from GatorEvals. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- ACADEMIC HONESTY

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."

Students who share information pertaining to course content from 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/>).

**Grading**

Grade points will be assigned according to current UF policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Final course grades will follow the standard grading scale shown to the right.

- **No individual exceptions to this grading scale will be considered.**
- Letter grades will be assigned as shown above **without additional rounding**; for example, 93.499% would be an A- and 93.500% would be the lowest average to earn an A.
- No grading curve will be applied unless the final class average is lower than 72.5% (C-). If the average final course grade is lower than 72.5%, an equal number of points will be added to each student's grade until the average is 72.5% (C).
- No extra credit assignments are anticipated. If extra credit is available, it will be announced to the entire class.

Letter Grade	Range
A	100% to 93.5%
A-	< 93.5% to 89.5%
B+	< 89.5% to 86%
B	< 86% to 82.5%
B-	< 82.5% to 79.5%
C+	< 79.5% to 76%
C	< 76% to 72.5%
C-	< 72.5% to 69.5%
D+	< 69.5% to 66%
D	< 66% to 62.5%
D-	< 62.5% to 59.5%
E	< 59.5% to 0%

**FINAL GRADE CALCULATION**

	each	Total
Lab reports 1-4	12.5%	50%
Lab report 5		25%
Quizzes (6)	1.67%	10%
Attendance / part. (~26)	0.38%	10%
Perusall readings (6)	0.83%	5%

- **LAB REPORTS**

Lab reports will be completed following APA format and submitted to the course Canvas page where they will be checked for plagiarism and use of AI writing programs. **Late lab reports will be reduced in score by 20% per day, starting at 12:00 AM on the Monday following the due date.**

- **QUIZZES**

For each reading assignment there will be a short (8 question) quiz on the Canvas course website (6 total over the semester). Quizzes will be due by 11:59 PM on the Sunday following the assigned

reading. All quiz due dates will be posted on Canvas by the second week of class. Late quizzes will be reduced in score by 20% per day, starting at 12:00 AM on the Monday following the due date.

**Be sure to take all quizzes twice before the deadline on Sunday.** Even if you score 100% on the first attempt, at least click through a second attempt before the deadline. This is due to some Canvas-related weirdness: just take the quiz twice to avoid potential incorrect assessment of late penalties.

Quizzes are **open notes and open book**. However, quizzes will be limited in time, so you will not be able to look up or Google-search every question. Each quiz must be **completed within the allotted time (6 minutes, or 45 seconds per question)**. After the allotted time the quiz will be automatically submitted, and any unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect. Be sure you are well prepared before beginning the quizzes.

Quizzes should be taken twice (different questions will usually appear), and the highest score will be kept.

There will be an initial quiz covering the syllabus. This initial quiz serves both to familiarize students to the structure and timing of the quizzes and to ensure course policies are known. On the initial syllabus quiz only, you will be able to re-take the quiz an unlimited number of times until you score 100%.

- **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. The only way to receive credit for attendance is to be physically present in the classroom. Excused absences (with documentation) will not count against the final attendance calculation. Every student is also allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Attendance gets taken 27 times during the semester (26 count for the grade, one is dropped).

For example: If a student misses three attendance days without documentation and one day with a doctor's note (excused absence makes the denominator of attendance 25 days), that student would receive 22/25 or 88% of the maximum attendance points.

A good amount of class time will be devoted to data collection and the active analysis of collected data. Failure to be an active member of the process will result in not receiving attendance credit for the day, even if you are physically present.

- **PERUSALL DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS**

Perusall is a social annotation tool designed to make course readings interactive, akin to social media posting. It has been estimated that after two weeks, we only remember about 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, but 70% of what we discuss with others (Dale, E. (1969). Audiovisual methods in teaching.)

Note that posts must demonstrate proper written English, including capitalization, spelling, and grammar. A link to Perusall will be in the Canvas course menu, and instructions for using this tool will be provided.

Each week with an assigned reading, you will be required to access Perusall at least twice as you complete your reading and commenting – DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

You will make 3-5 total annotations each week. At least one post should be in response to classmates' questions or posts, and at least one post should be a question about the reading.

Posts will be evaluated for quality by Perusall's automated AI algorithm. **Three posts that are evaluated as "high quality", spread throughout the reading assignment (not all within one section), along with reading the entire assignment and accessing reading material on at least two separate days, are all criteria used to arrive at an overall score for each assignment.**

## Reading & Course Schedule

Each topic will first be introduced with a background reading (access through Perusall from the course Canvas page) and in-class presentation / discussion. **Perusall posts and a quiz covering the material will be due at 11:59 PM on the Sunday following the week the topic is covered.** For example, complete the Perusall posts and the quiz covering Psychophysical functions by Sunday, 8/31.

Lab activity weeks (shown in **purple** on the schedule) will be spent collecting data; nothing will be due these weeks.

The week following each lab activity will be spent preparing the lab report and discussing/demonstrating completing the data analysis required for each lab report. **Lab reports 1-4 will be due by 11:59 PM on the Sunday the week after completing the data collection** for that lab. For example, the lab report for 2-pt touch discrimination will be due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, 9/21.

Week	Dates		Monday	Wednesday	Topic(s)
1	8/18/2025	8/20/2025			
2	8/25/2025	8/27/2025	first day of class		Psychophysical functions
3	9/1/2025	9/3/2025	holiday		Lab report formatting
4	9/8/2025	9/10/2025			2-pt. touch discrimination lab
5	9/15/2025	9/17/2025			Data analysis & plotting
6	9/22/2025	9/24/2025			Vision: discrimination&detection
7	9/29/2025	10/1/2025			Visual discrimination lab
8	10/6/2025	10/8/2025			Discrimination analysis
9	10/13/2025	10/15/2025			Visual detection lab
10	10/20/2025	10/22/2025			Detection analysis / Signal Detection Theory
11	10/27/2025	10/29/2025			Visual SDT lab
12	11/3/2025	11/5/2025			Signal Detection analysis
13	11/10/2025	11/12/2025			Attentional Blink (AB)
14	11/17/2025	11/19/2025			AB lab
	11/24/2025	11/26/2025	holiday	holiday	
15	12/1/2025	12/3/2025		last day of class	AB analysis
	12/10/2025	Final Lab report due@		11:59 PM	



## FAQ

Q: What do I have to do to get an A (or a B or a C...)?

A: There is no guaranteed path to success, but reading the text before each class and *actively* taking notes during class are common habits of students who do very well. Attention to detail is very important when preparing the lab reports – be sure to check that all required components are present.

There will not be any extra credit opportunities or “reopening” of missed assignments or quizzes at the end of the semester to boost grades. **Consistency throughout the semester is key** to doing well.

Q: I had some challenging personal situation(s) throughout the semester that negatively impacted my academic performance. What can be done?

A: Legitimate hardships are, unfortunately, going to occur. Each student must decide for themselves if they are able to continue attending school if/when encountering these types of situations. If you decide to remain in the class, you will be graded no differently than anyone else (see grading policy).

Be sure to understand your options for dropping or withdrawing from classes and/or taking medical leave:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/dropping-courses-withdrawals/#droppingcoursestext>

<https://umatter.ufl.edu/concern/taking-medical-leave-withdraw/>

Q: Can you write me a letter of recommendation? Can you write me a *strong* letter of recommendation?

A: The answer to the first question is usually yes, and the answer to the second question is usually no. If you have taken one class with me and I have never spoken to you outside of the classroom, I am usually (time permitting) willing and able to write a very generic letter of recommendation. Sometimes generic letters are all that is really needed, though-I have written plenty of generic letters for students who have subsequently been accepted to medical school, dental school, law school, etc.