

PSB 3002: Physiological Psychology

University of Florida

Spring 2026

Meeting Times: M, W, F, 1:55 - 2:45 PM

Location: PSY 130

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

Office hours: M, W, F 12:30-1:30 PM. Other times by request.

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

Office: Psychology 017 (basement level)

*** This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>**

Any updates will be posted to the course announcements section of Canvas.

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Course Description

We will seek to gain an appreciation of the core processes through which neural systems produce psychological phenomena. Physiology is a sub-discipline of biology, while psychology seeks to explain thoughts and behavior. Putting the two together, this course is an introductory survey of how the brain produces mental and physical action. While the experiments discussed throughout the course sometimes feature animals like rats and monkeys, the goal is always to use these animal models to better understand human nature.

Learning Outcomes

COURSE SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Demonstrate familiarity with:

- major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in physiological/biological psychology
- the structure and function of the of the central and peripheral nervous systems
- how the body transforms physical sensations into psychological perceptions

- symptoms and potential causes for selected psychological and neurological disorders

Course Requirements and Policies

REQUIRED READINGS

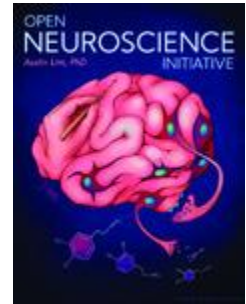
All readings will make use of Perusall and will be accessible through the course Canvas page. Perusall will be discussed more during the first week of the course.

Text:

Open Neuroscience Initiative (2023), by Austin Lim.

- The text is open access (free) and available from: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/csh textbooks/2/>

****Be sure that you complete all readings within Perusall** (discussed later and in-class). The program monitors reading behavior, which contributes to overall reading assignment grades.



COURSE PREREQUISITE

An introductory course in biology (BSC2010). **BCN majors should take PSB3340**, not this course.

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 access to a stable internet connection.

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. The 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

- Make up policy for missed exams, quizzes, or readings

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 must be provided. 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 make-up Exams or 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 or exam scheduled on Friday will need to be completed by the end of the day on Monday.

All exams must be taken in-person with a proctor. Thus, the available times and dates for make-up exams will be limited. **Make-up exams will have different questions than those in the regularly scheduled exam. Additionally, question types may include short answer/essay and fill-in-the-blank questions in addition to the multiple-choice question format of regular exams.** Any hand-written responses that are illegible will be marked incorrect.

Reading assignments and Perusall posts are available throughout the week and are **not intended to be completed at the last possible minute. It will usually not be possible to earn full points on a Perusall assignment by reading and posting comments in a single day.**

- 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. 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

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/>.

As mandatory reporters, university employees are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF's Title IX coordinator.

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.ua.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/>).

- Lecture recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures for personal use only. For more details, see: , please see: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

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 for any reason.**
- Letter grades will be applied **without 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

We will cover 14 (usually short) chapters worth of content over the course of the semester. Some weeks will cover material from multiple chapters—be sure to follow the reading schedule.

	each	Total
Exams (3)	*	66%
*18%, 22%, 26%		
Quizzes (11)	1.82%	20%
Perusall readings (14)	0.64%	9%
SONA		5%

EXAMS

Three non-cumulative exams will be taken in-person. Each exam will be composed of approximately 30 multiple choice questions**. Each exam must be completed within a standard class period (50 minutes), with any unanswered questions at the end of the period counted as incorrect. Exams must be completed and turned in before leaving the room (such as for bathroom breaks or to answer a phone call) or accessing phones for any reason. Phones should be kept out of sight once the student ID has been entered on the exam Scantron form.

** Make-up exams will have different questions than those in the regularly scheduled exam. Additionally, question types may include short answer/essay and fill-in-the-blank questions in addition to the multiple-choice question format of regular exams. Any hand-written responses that are illegible will be marked incorrect.

Exams will cover only the text and lecture material from the chapters that have been covered since the last exam (exams 2 and 3) or the first day of class (exam 1). Syllabus information will not be tested on Exam 1.

*Exams will be weighted so that your highest score accounts for 26% of the total exam score, your middle score 22%, and your lowest score 18%. This weighting will be applied automatically starting after exam 2.

Exams are closed book, but you may bring **one page of handwritten notes** (standard sized paper, front and back).

Be sure to be on time for exams. Anyone arriving after the first person has turned in his/her/their exam will not be allowed to take the exam and thus will receive a 0. **Students with DRC accommodations should schedule to take ALL exams at the DRC office at the beginning of the semester (you must request a testing time at least 4 business days before the scheduled exam).**

Answers will be marked on a scantron sheet with a #2 pencil. Be sure to **bring a pencil, your student ID card, and your single page of handwritten notes** to class on exam days.

No new course material will be covered on exam days.

Exam answers will NOT be provided on the class Canvas page or submitted in any electronic format (e-mail, Zoom, etc.). Feedback pertaining to missed questions or correct answers will be provided only during office hours for an individual student. During office hours meetings to discuss exams, a hardcopy (printed on paper) version of the exam will be available for review only (no pictures, no recordings). You will never see these exact questions again, so there is no need to memorize them anyway.

Each exam will be available for review during office hours for a period of two weeks following the exam.

QUIZZES

Each non-exam week there will be a 5-question quiz on the Canvas course website. Quizzes will cover only new material since the preceding quiz (non-cumulative).

Quizzes are **open notes and open book**. However, quizzes will be limited in time, so you might not be able to look up or Google-search every question. Each quiz must be **completed within 3 minutes** of starting it, after which 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 must be taken twice before the due date (different questions will usually appear), and the highest score will be kept. Starting at 12am following the due date for a quiz, **completing the second attempt after 12am will result in an automatic deduction of 10% per day.**

A quiz is not considered complete until the second attempt has been

completed, and the automatic deduction will be applied from whenever the second attempt is completed:

example: If you received a 10/10 on one quiz before the deadline and make the second attempt 7 days later, there will be a deduction of 70%, so your score will be 3/10.

On exam weeks, the answers from previous quizzes will be made available and any non-completed quizzes will receive a score of 0.

There will be an initial quiz covering the syllabus. This initial quiz serves both to familiarize students with 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%.

PERUSALL DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS

Perusall is a social annotation tool designed to make course readings interactive, akin to social media posting.

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, 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 4-7 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.

Posts will be evaluated for quality by Perusall's automated AI algorithm. **Four (4) 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.**

Based on the overall body of your annotations, you will receive a score for each assignment as follows

3 = demonstrates exceptionally thoughtful and thorough reading of the entire assignment

2 = demonstrates thoughtful and thorough reading of the entire assignment

1 = demonstrates superficial reading of the entire assignment OR thoughtful reading of only part of the assignment

0 = demonstrates superficial reading of only part of the assignment

SONA RESEARCH PARTICIPATION (OR ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENT)

There is a Psychology Department requirement that all students enrolled in any 3000-level class participate in the SONA participation pool or complete an equivalent alternate assignment.

To earn full credit, you must participate in 7.5 hours (15 credits) of experimental research studies or complete a designated number (3) of critical analysis papers on selected topics that will be posted on the Canvas page. If you do NOT complete the full number of credits by the deadline, you will receive points at a rate of 1 point per credit completed. If you do not wish to participate in research you must notify me (the instructor) that you will be completing the alternative assignment by the deadline that will be posted on Canvas. **The alternative assignment option will not be available after the deadline posted on Canvas.**

Do NOT wait until the last minute to complete this requirement. **The longer you wait the harder it will be to get all the credits you need!**

Full details on Canvas by week 2.

Attendance: Attendance will not be taken. However, material that is covered during the lecture will be included on the quizzes. Attending class and taking notes is highly recommended. Exams are in-person, and physical presence within the Gainesville area should be maintained throughout the semester.

Reading & Course Schedule

Week	Dates		Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	1/12	1/16	Syllabus	Perusal/ Ch.1	Ch.1
2	1/19	1/23	Holiday	Ch.2	Ch.2
3	1/26	1/30	Ch.3	Ch.3	Ch.3
4	2/2	2/6	Ch.4	Ch.4	Ch.4
5	2/9	2/13	Ch.5	Ch.5	Exam 1
6	2/16	2/20	Ch.6	Ch.6	Ch.6
7	2/23	2/27	Ch.7	Ch.7	Ch.7
8	3/2	3/6	Ch.8	Ch.8	Ch.9
9	3/9	3/13	Ch.9	Exam 2	
	3/16	3/20		Spring Break	
10	3/23	3/27	Ch.10	Ch.10	Ch.10
11	3/30	4/3	Ch.11	Ch.11	Ch.11
12	4/6	4/10	Ch.12	Ch.12	Ch.12
13	4/13	4/17	Ch.13	Ch.13	Ch.13
14	4/20	4/24	Ch.16	Exam 3	Reading Days

FAQ

Q: Will there be a study guide for exams?

A: No. The best review sources will be class PowerPoints, and the key ideas sections found at the end of each assigned reading in the textbook. PowerPoints are already my summary of the most important topics for each chapter.

Q: It is past the deadline for electing the alternative SONA assignments, but I do not think that I can complete the full number of credits through research participation – can I now elect the alternative ?

A: No. Be sure to determine prior to the deadline listed in Canvas for the semester if you will be able to complete the research requirement or if you want to complete the alternative article reviews.

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.

There will **not be any extra credit opportunities or “reopening” of missed assignments or quizzes or individual extra-credit opportunities 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.