PSB 3340: Behavioral Neuroscience
University of Florida
Fall 2025

Meeting Times: Tuesdays 10:40 – 11:30, Thursdays 10:40 – 12:35
Location: CSEA (Computer Sciences/Engineering) 101
Instructor: Matt (Wendel) Friedl, Ph.D.
Office hours: One hour immediately following class. Other times by request.
email: Please use Canvas messaging; alternate email: wfriedl@ufl.edu
Office: Psychology 017 (basement level)

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

Graduate TAs
Katherine Driver
Taryn Nardi
Undergraduate TAs
Cassidy Martin
Thu Ngo

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 polices and for resources for students, please see this link.

Contents (Ctrl+click to follow link)

Course Description
This course provides a broad background in the neural basis of human behavior. This is an in-depth introductory course covering how—as far as is currently understood—thoughts, actions, and feelings arise from the biology, anatomy, and physiology of the nervous system.
This course is required both for students in the Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience track and the Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Neurobiological Sciences major. This course is a pre-requisite for all 4000-level PSB courses.

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, a software program designed to make required readings a more interactive and collaborative experience. Perusall will be discussed more during the first week of the course.

IMPORTANT: Only purchase the textbook through the Perusall link on the Canvas course page. Reading and commenting through the Perusall application is part of the grade for the course.

• Behavioral Neuroscience, 10 th ed. (2023), by S. M. Breedlove and N. V. Watson.

• There is one copy of the 10th edition at Library West, available for 2-hour blocks. **Note** that if you choose to read a physical copy of the book outside of the Perusall application, you will still need to log in to Perusall to post comments and respond to comments from other students.
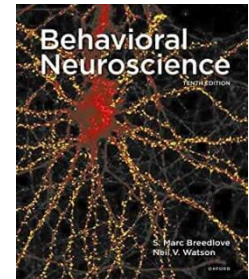
Course Prerequisite

An introductory course in biology (BSC2010).

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.

➢ 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
- 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 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 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.

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.

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. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at https://my-ufl.bluera.com

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. 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

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 applied **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

We will cover *roughly* 12 chapters worth of content over the course of the semester. Only select sections from some of the chapters will be assigned, and some weeks will cover material from multiple chapters—be sure to follow the reading schedule.

	each	Total
Exams (3)	22%	66%
Quizzes (11)	2.00%	22%
SONA	5.00%	5%
Perusall readings (13)	0.54%	7%

- EXAMS

Three non-cumulative exams will be taken in-person. Each exam will be composed of approximately 50 multiple choice questions. Each exam must be completed within a standard class period, 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.

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 are closed book, but you may bring **one page of handwritten notes** (standard sized paper, front and back). Printed handwriting from an iPad/tablet is acceptable, but be sure it is recognizable as human handwriting (don't do a writing to font conversion).

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**.

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 course material will be covered on exam days.

To preserve the integrity of exam materials across classes and years, 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

At the end of each non-exam week there will be a 10-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 will not be able to look up or Google-search every question. Each quiz must be **completed within 7.5 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, starting one minute after 12am on the due date.**

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%.

- 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, 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 5-9 total annotations each week. At least two posts 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. **Five 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**.

- SONA RESEARCH POOL PARTICIPATION

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. Deadlines and number of hours for fulfilling this requirement will be posted on Canvas by the second week of class. 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 & Participation: 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

- READINGS

When the first section of a chapter is assigned (e.g. 1.1, 2.1, etc.), also read the unnumbered opening page(s) of the chapter. Read any "Box" sections included within assigned reading sections (e.g. include Box 1.1 in the reading for chapter 1.1).

Due dates: The regular schedule (except for weeks 1-2) for completing coursework will be: **Perusall readings for weekly topics due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday** of the assigned week. For example, week 4 readings and posts on ligands will be due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, 9/10.

Quizzes will be due by 11:59 PM on Fridays (every Friday except for exam weeks). Be sure to complete two quiz attempts prior to the deadline each week.

Week	Dates		Tuesday	Thursday	Topic(s)
1	8/18/2025	8/24/2025		first day of class	
2	8/25/2025	8/31/2025			history & evolution
3	9/1/2025	9/7/2025			neuron structure/function
4	9/8/2025	9/14/2025			ligands (NTs, drugs, hormones)
5	9/15/2025	9/21/2025		Exam 1	neuroanatomy, res. Methods
6	9/22/2025	9/28/2025			general sensory principles
7	9/29/2025	10/5/2025			hearing
8	10/6/2025	10/12/2025			vision
9	10/13/2025	10/19/2025			vestibular & chemical perception
10	10/20/2025	10/26/2025		Exam 2	Movement & plasticity
11	10/27/2025	11/2/2025			sleep & biorhythms
12	11/3/2025	11/9/2025			emotions & stress
13	11/10/2025	11/16/2025	holiday		psychopathology
14	11/17/2025	11/23/2025			learning & memory
	11/24/2025	11/30/2025	holiday	holiday	
15	12/1/2025	12/4/2025	last day of class	Reading Days	
	12/11/2025			Exam 3 10am - 12pm	

FAQ

Q: Will there be a study guide for exams?

A: No. The best review sources will be class PowerPoints and the learning objectives found at the beginning of each assigned reading in the textbook. PowerPoints are already my summary of the most important topics for each chapter. Visual summaries at the end of each chapter in the textbook are also good for review.

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 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.