

# Sensory Processes

Instructor: Ryan Mears, Ph.D.

Class Meeting time: 9:35-10:25 AM M,W,F (EXP3104-217H)

Class Meeting location: PSY 0130

E-mail: mears@ufl.edu

Office Hours: PSY 0136, M & F 11:30-Noon

## Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of the human senses and their role in perception. A goal of this course is to appreciate that our sensorium receives something different from our resultant awareness and reactions to the world around us. Distributed over and throughout the body, diverse physical sensor arrays receive and transduce signals into neural information. In the pathways of the brain, expansive and hierarchical decoding processes follow the initial sensory encoding. 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 Goals

- Consider how we sense the physical environment and what factors influence our perception
- Explore sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell from physiological and behavioral perspectives
- Whenever suitable engage in demonstrations and discussions
- Understand how sensation & perception relate to the structures and functions of the nervous system

## Required Text

**MindTap** Psychology for Sensation and Perception.

Optional: Loose-leaf physical book along with *MindTap*

[\*Goldstein, E. B. & Brockmole, J. R. \(2017\). Sensation and Perception, 10th Ed. Cengage Learning.\*](#)

## Course Schedule

#	Week of	Goldstein Chapters	Chapter Quiz	Exams
1	21-Aug	1 Introduction to Perception	23-Aug (Wed)	
2	28-Aug	2 Beginning of Perception	28-Aug	
3	4-Sep	3 Neural Processing	30-Aug (Wed)	
4	11-Sep	4 Cortical Organization	6-Sep (Wed)	
5	18-Sep	5 Objects and Scenes	15-Sep (Fri)	<b>Exam 1 (9/20)</b>
6	25-Sep	6 Visual Attention	25-Sep	
7	2-Oct	7 Action	2-Oct	
8	9-Oct	8 Motion	9-Oct	
9	16-Oct	9 Color	16-Oct	
10	23-Oct	10 Depth and Size	23-Oct	
11	30-Oct	11 Hearing	30-Oct	<b>Exam 2 (10/25)</b>
12	6-Nov	12 Auditory Localization and Structure	6-Nov	
13	13-Nov	13 Speech	13-Nov	
14	20-Nov	14 Cutaneous Senses	20-Nov	
15	27-Nov	15 Chemical Senses	27-Nov	
16	4-Dec	15 Chemical Senses (continued)		<b>Exam 3 (12/6)</b>

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## Course Procedures

**EXAMS:** Throughout the semester there will be three exams; the third exam will not be cumulative. 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>

**Quizzes:** Chapter quizzes during the semester will together comprise 35% of the course grade. The quizzes will be designed to help you apply and understand material from the course text as you read.

**DISCUSSION & PARTICIPATION:** Discussion and participation will account for 5% of the final grade. Attendance will be tracked as part of overall classroom participation. 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/](http://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.

Grade	Percentage Range
A+	100% — 96.5%
A	96% — 93%
A-	92.5% — 90%
B+	89.5% — 86.5%
B	86% — 83%
B-	82.5% — 80%
C+	79.5% — 76.5%
C	76% — 73%
C-	72.5% — 70%
D+	69.5% — 66.5%
D	66% — 63%
D-	62.5% — 60%
F+	59.5% — 56.5%
F	56% — 53%
F-	52.5% — 0%