

Intro. to Sport Psychology

APK3400 | 23723, 23724 | 3 Credits | Fall 2025

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Course Info

INSTRUCTOR

Derek T.Y. Mann, Ph.D.
Email: dmann5@ufl.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Excluding UF Holidays:
Tuesday: 1100am-1200pm
Wednesday: 930-1030am
Available by appointment when scheduled at least 1 business day in advance.

COURSE ACCESS

Access course through [Canvas on UF e-Learning](#) & the **Canvas** mobile app by **Instructure**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Provides an understanding of the science and practice of sport psychology from both a theoretical and applied perspective. The primary emphasis is on the educational and performance enhancement roles of the field with little discussion of clinical issues.

COURSE OVERVIEW

APK 3400 - Introduction to Sport Psychology examines the cognitive, social, behavioral, and neurophysiological factors that influence performance in sport and other motor performance endeavors. Topics covered include examining how motivation, emotion, attention, performance attributions, and confidence influence performance; how goal setting, emotion regulation, attention training, attribution training, mental imagery, & practice structures can be incorporated into psychological skills training programs designed to improve performance; and how psychological factors influence teams, leaders, sport injury, and career transition in youth sport, sub-elite sport, and elite sport contexts.

The field of sport psychology actively promotes the scientist-practitioner model. Utilization of the scientist-practitioner model involves the ability to consume and appropriately apply contemporary theory and scientific findings to the practice of applied sport psychology. Accordingly, APK 3400 will explore how sport psychology science and theory inform practical application of psychological skills interventions.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Students must hold Junior or Senior classification based on the UF Registrar's class [Student Classifications system](#).

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Course readings and materials will be curated by course instructor and accessible through the UF E-learning course page. Students will need to utilize UF's VPN service to access UF Library subscriptions when utilizing off-campus computers. Additional information can be found [here](#).

COURSE FORMAT

The course is organized into 12 modules. Within each module, students will have the opportunity to engage in course content and graded learning activities. The learning activities are designed to catalyze student achievement of the following course goals and objectives.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. One goal of APK 3400 is to facilitate opportunities for student understanding of:

- the scientific evidence and theoretical perspectives that provide insight into how psychological factors influence the performance of human movement and sport.
- the interdependence and influence of various psychological factors on athletic performance, skill acquisition, and cognitive processes.
- typical scientific protocols utilized in sport psychology research.
- commonly utilized psychological skills interventions designed to improve overall sport performance.
- basic understanding of Artificial Intelligence systems, ethical considerations for the application of Artificial Intelligence, and entry experience training and utilizing an Artificial Intelligence instance to solve a problem.
- the complex, interdependent global sport systems and international cultural contributions to human performance within these diverse sport systems.

2. A second goal of APK 3400 is to facilitate student skill development in:

- retrieving, evaluating quality, and identifying applicability of emerging scientific literature in sport psychology.
- engaging in critical, constructive, and diplomatic academic discussions of sport psychology topics and scientific literature.
- effective written communication of scientific knowledge in sport psychology.
- analyzing needs for sport psychology programming and developing plans to implement sport psychology programming.
- appreciation for international cultures and an improved understanding of their position within the global community.
- communicating their acquired acumen in cultural awareness and global citizenship.

Course & University Policies

UF STUDENT COMPUTING REQUIREMENTS:

As a 100% online course and as per the UF student computing requirements, "access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students." UF does not recommend students relying on/regularly using tablet devices, mobile phones or Chromebook devices as their primary computer as it may not be [compatible](#) with specific platforms used in this course or UF. Access to fast, secure Wi-Fi will be necessary for this course. If a student is in an area with limited wi-fi access, UF students can access **eduroam** for free with their GatorLink log-in credentials.

How to connect to eduroam:

1. If you can get a Wi-Fi signal at any of the eduroam locations (see below) and your mobile device (laptop, smartphone, or tablet) has already been configured for eduroam, then you will automatically connect.
2. Otherwise, follow the instructions for connecting [here](#).
3. There are more than 100 Wi-Fi hotspots in Florida, including several state university campuses and community colleges. You don't have to sit in a car--many locations have open spaces and communal rooms available so you can get online while socially distancing and following CDC guidelines in an air-conditioned space. Also, in Florida all of the UF/IFAS Research and Education Centers (REC) are equipped with eduroam, so if you live in a rural area of your county you can visit an REC to securely watch course videos and take care of your academic needs. Here's a [link](#) to all the eduroam sites in the U.S.:

If you have any problems connecting to eduroam you can call (352-392-HELP/4357) or [email](#) the UF Computing Help Desk.

The UF Computing Help Desk is available to assist students with technical issues. If you have any issues accessing the online course material, you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk immediately for assistance and obtain a case number. **I will not accept late assignments, or change any course dates, due to technology difficulties if you do not have a case number prior to the due date for the assignment.**

Other resources are available [here](#).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is an asynchronous course, and you are not expected to physically be on UF's campus at any time. However, you are expected to participate in course discussions, YellowDig, and regularly engage with course content.

PERSONAL CONDUCT POLICY

Students are expected to exhibit behaviors that reflect highly upon themselves and the University. 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 [Student Honor Code and Conduct Code \(Regulation 4.040\)](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. Students are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult the instructor, graduate assistant, or teaching assistant in this class.

APPROPRIATE USE OF AI TECHNOLOGY

The UF Honor Code strictly prohibits [cheating](#). The use of any materials or resources prepared by another person or Entity (inclusive of generative AI tools) without the other person or Entity's expressed consent or without proper attribution to the other person or Entity is considered *cheating*. Additionally, the use of any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty / Instructor has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to a student, constitutes *cheating*.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

The materials used in this course are copyrighted. Course content is the intellectual property of Garrett Beatty, and property of the University of Florida. Course content may not be duplicated in any format without explicit permission from the College of Health and Human Performance, UF, and Dr. Derek Mann. Course content may not be used for any commercial purposes. Individuals violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action or legal litigation from the University and other injured parties.

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Unless excused based on University [policies](#), missed examinations and non-submitted or late assignments will not be evaluated and will be assigned a grade of 0.

Obtaining approval for make-up exams or make-up assignments is the responsibility of the student. Students with medical or emergency related circumstances should utilize the UF Care Team's [Contact My Instructor](#) service provided by the UF Dean of Students Office.

Any non-medical or emergency related circumstances require students to submit a written request explaining why an exception is being requested. The written request must include official documentation that provides proof that the missed coursework was due to acceptable reasons outlined by university policy.

ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting their [Get Started](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

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, or
3. The central portal at bluera.com

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available [here](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, or in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, you can also access the course evaluations [here](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students and can be found [here](#).

PRIVACY

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations. Students enrolled in this course are agreeing to have their video or audio content accessible to the members of this course, enrolled in this semester. All class meetings will be recorded and provided to the class for asynchronous access. Students engaging in this course will also develop multimedia content including audio and video presentations that will be accessible to all members of the class. Recordings will not be available to members outside of this course.

Per the State of Florida's House Bill 233, students are also permitted to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is defined as an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code

Getting Help

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- **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; or 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 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 & Grievances:** Students are encouraged to communicate first with the involved person(s), but [here](#) is more information on the appropriate reporting process.
- [Academic Policies and Campus Resources](#)

APK ADMINISTRATORS

For suggestions or concerns related to APK courses or programming, please reach out to any of the following:

- Dr. David Vaillancourt (he/him), APK Department Chair, vcourt@ufl.edu
- Dr. Demetra Christou (she/her), APK Department Vice Chair, ddchristou@hwp.ufl.edu
- Dr. Joslyn Ahlgren (she/her), APK Undergraduate Coordinator, jahlgren@ufl.edu

Grading

Student learning will be evaluated through module quizzes, case study assignments, engagement in the Yellowdig Learning Community, and three exams. Specific assignment details and grading rubrics will be provided in the course website on [Canvas](#).

- **Quizzes:** Each course module includes multiple choice quizzes aimed at guiding and enhancing engagement in learning opportunities.
- **Yellowdig Learning Community:** Students are expected to engage in discussion of course relevant topics through the Yellowdig Learning Community. Points are earned during weekly periods that start on Wednesdays and end on Tuesdays. Students are expected to engage in Yellowdig discussions weekly and meet the weekly point earning goals.
- **Global Skill Development and AI Case Study Assignments:** Students will be graded on their ability to examine Sport Psychology through critical analysis of the complex, interdependent global systems and international cultural contributions to human performance. Students will complete graded assignments facilitating their skill development in marketing their skills through resumes, interviews, and use of AI enabled tools. Students may also have the opportunity to engage in virtual exchange with international students studying sport science. The global skill development will be applied within three graded module study assignments that

focus on creating plans to apply psychological skills principles to optimize the psychological constructs inherent to competitive environments (e.g., creating a training plan to help facilitate skill acquisition in an athlete). Students will have the opportunity to create their own case that is personally relevant to their current activities or utilize a pre-prepared case narrative. The assignments are designed iteratively, so students are encouraged to utilize the same athlete case throughout the course. Graded deliverables will include a written skill acquisition training plan (module 1), a slide deck communicating a goal setting or emotion regulation training approach (module 2), a video presentation of a slide deck communicating an attention training or self-talk / mental imagery training approach. Students are encouraged to reflect on their experience and share their case solutions in Yellowdig to facilitate learning community engagement.

- **Exams:** Students' knowledge of course content will be evaluated on three multiple choice exams. The exam items will be developed from the assigned readings, lecture material, and other course activities. Exam items will include applied, case study style questions in addition to more traditional multiple choice questions.
- **Optional Module Study Guides:** Optional study guides provide students the opportunity to prepare for the application portion of the exams, by requiring students to utilize critical thinking and application skills connecting material within and across modules. The Study Guides are optional and serve as an extra credit opportunity.

Final grade composition:

- Quizzes: 10%
- Yellowdig Engagement: 10%
- AI & Global Sport Psych.: 30%
- Exams: 50%:
 - Total = 100%
- *Optional Study Guides: add 2%*

Notes:

- Grades will not be rounded
- e.g. a 92.99% will not be rounded to a 93.00%.
- Grades of "I", "X", "H", or "N" will not be given except in cases of a documented, catastrophic occurrence.

Grading scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>
A	93 - 100 %	4.00
A-	90 - 92.99 %	3.67
B+	87 - 89.99 %	3.33
B	83 - 86.99 %	3.00
B-	80 - 82.99 %	2.67
C+	77 - 79.99 %	2.33
C	73 - 76.99 %	2.00
C-	70 - 72.99 %	1.67
D+	67 - 69.99 %	1.33
D	63 - 66.99 %	1.00
D-	60 - 62.99 %	0.67
E	0 - 59.99 %	0.00

More detailed information regarding current UF grading policies can be found here:

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

Weekly Course Schedule

CRITICAL DATES & UF OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

- September 1st: Labor Day (Monday)
- October 17-18th: Homecoming (Thursday - Friday)
- November 11: Veteran's Day (Tuesday)
- November 24- 29: Thanksgiving Break (Monday – Saturday)
- December 12-13 Commencement (Friday – Saturday)
- Complete list available here: [Critical Dates & UF Observed Holidays](#)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Assigned Module & Schedule Notes	Assessments Due
1	Aug 21-22	Module 1 - Course Introduction	
2	Aug 25-29	Module 2 – Psychological Skills Training & Consulting	Note: Aug 27, Yellowdig Earning Period 1 begins.
3	Sept 1-5	Module 3 – Motivation	Sept 3 AI & Global Sport Psych Assignment 1 Yellowdig Earning Period 1 Ends
4	Sept 8-12	Module 4 – Goal Setting	Sept 10 Yellowdig Earning Period 2 Ends
5	Sept 15-19	Exam Week – Exam 1 Exam 1 Available: Sept 15 – 19	Sept 17 Yellowdig Earning Period 3 Ends Sept 19 Exam 1 Modules 1 - 4 Quizzes & Study Guide
6	Sept 22-26	Module 5 – Emotion	Sept 24 Yellowdig Earning Period 4 Ends
7	Sept 29 - Oct 3	Module 6 – Emotion Regulation	Sept 31 AI & Global Sport Psych Assignment 2 Yellowdig Earning Period 5 Ends
8	Oct 6 - 10	Module 7 – Attention	Oct 8 Yellowdig Earning Period 6 Ends
9	Oct	Module 8 – Attributions & Confidence	Oct 14

	13-17		Yellowdig Earning Period 7 Ends
10	Oct 20-24	Exam Week – Exam 2 Exam 2 Available: Oct 20 – 24	Oct 22 Yellowdig Earning Period 8 Ends Oct 24 Exam 2 Modules 5 – 8 Quizzes & Study Guide
11	Oct 27-31	Module 9 – Self-talk & Mental Imagery	Oct 29 Yellowdig Earning Period 9 Ends
12	Nov 3-7	Module 10 – Practice Structure	Nov 5 Yellowdig Earning Period 10 Ends
13	Nov 10-14	Module 11 – Teams & Leadership	Nov 12 Yellowdig Earning Period 11 Ends
14	Nov 17- 21	Module 12 – Injuries & Career Transition	Nov 19 AI & Global Sport Psych Assignment 3 Yellowdig Earning Period 12 Ends
15	Nov 24 -28	Thanksgiving Break	
16	Dec 1-3	Exam 3 Available: Dec 1 – 5	Dec 3 Yellowdig Earning Period 13 Ends AI & Global Sport Psych Assignment 4 Dec 5 Exam 3 Module 9 – 12 Quizzes & Study Guide

SUCCESS AND STUDY TIPS

Quizzes are designed as preparation tools for the course exams. Learning is a process that requires sustained, incremental advancements and occurs over time following neural adaptation. More simply stated, cramming may yield short-term results, but this strategy does not induce meaningful or lasting learning. Quizzes include questions reflective of the question styles included on the three exams.

Yellowdig is an asynchronous student engagement platform. Students should plan to participate weekly by posting course relevant thoughts, observations, questions; and responding to peers. Points are accrued on a weekly basis, so it is critical that students do not fall behind as it is nearly impossible to catch up on missed weeks.

AI & Global Case Studies assignments are designed to facilitate skill development in retrieving, consuming, and communicating scientific evidence to a broad audience. Case Studies require substantial preparation to execute successfully. Students should review the Assignment at the beginning of the semester and plan to work on these assignments incrementally each week throughout the semester.

Exams are designed as summative assessments (meaning, they test students to see what they learned and retained in the preceding module). All module materials, assignments, and the optional study guides are intentionally designed to help students prepare for the three course exams.

Optional Study Guides are exactly that—optional, and study guides. Note, the study guides are designed to facilitate learning, and not memorization. The study guides require critical thinking and problem solving utilizing the concepts presented within the module. Students should attempt to answer the study guide prompts without using course materials to self-test their retention. When students hit a block and are unable to answer a study guide prompt, then they can reference course materials. Students would benefit from self-testing their ability to answer each prompt until they can do so without referencing course materials.