INTRODUCTION
Numerous studies have shown that affective valence modulated eyeblinks resulting from intense, abrupt, acoustic stimuli. Extending this work, we have demonstrated that somatic (nociceptive) reflex and somatic (autonomic) skin-conductance responses are elicited by noxious sural nerve stimulation and affective valences are modulated in parallel by affective valence. Specifically, negatively valenced affect enhances pain, nociception, and autonomic responses, and positively valenced affect inhibits them. The present study examined whether eyeblink reactions resulting from noxious sural nerve stimulation show the same pattern of modulation. To do so, we examined the effects of emotional valence and arousal on eyeblinks resulting from noxious electric stimulations of the sural nerve. Noxious stimuli were associated with participants viewing 23 pictures that varied in emotional valence and arousal.

OBJECTIVES
To determine the independent effects of affective valence and arousal on eyeblink reactions resulting from noxious sural nerve stimulation.
To determine if eyeblink reactions to noxious stimuli are modulated by emotion in the same pattern as somatic, autonomic, and subjective reactions.

PARTICIPANTS
23 healthy students (18% Hispanic, 92% non-Hispanic) with an average age of 25 years (SD = 7.79).
Exclusion criteria: 18 years of age, current acute illness, psychiatric or neurologic disorders, or a history of using antidepressants, anxiolytics, or antihypertensive medications.

PROCEDURE
Recording electrodes - left orbicularis oculi muscle.

MEASUREMENT OF EYEBLINKS
- Electric stimulation.
- Stimulus threshold.