

Welcome!

PSYC 312 – Biological Psychology

Spring 2013 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Raechel Soicher

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Office Hours: T 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Adjunct Office, FL-1

Lecture: T/Th 10:30 am – 11:50 am

Lab: T or Th: 1:00 pm – 4:05 pm

Location: FL4-121

Phone: 916-800-4394

(call/text 9:00 am – 8:00 pm)

Textbook (required): Biological Psychology, 11th Edition (2013). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-111-83100-4 (10th edition can also be used)

This course will focus on how the brain produces thought and behavior. It will explore the physiological, biochemical, genetic, and evolutionary mechanisms underlying fundamental human capacities such as sensory perception, movement, sleep, dreaming, emotion, motivation, memory and language. Students will explore the broader ethical and societal implications of recent advances in neuroscience, as well as the variety of research methods used to achieve these advances. Students will dissect brains and other nervous tissue and record psychophysiological signals to provide a deeper understanding of nervous system anatomy and physiology. This is a basic course for psychology, biological science and allied health majors.

This 4 credit course is a core course for the FLC Psychology A.A. and fulfills the following other requirements: Life Forms for CSU transfer, Biological Science and Lab Course for IGETC, and natural science for the FLC A.A.

Student Learning Objectives: *Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:*

- Identify key brain and peripheral nervous system structures involved in crucial aspects of cognition and behavior such as sensory perception, movement, regulation of sleep, emotions, motivation, memory and language
 - Relate behavior and mental processes to physiological, biochemical, genetic, and evolutionary mechanisms
 - Understand changes in human cognition and behavior in terms of the development, plasticity, and pathology of the nervous system
 - Understand the strengths and limitations of neuroscience research methods and evaluate the broader implications of recent research advances
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Grading:

Grades will be based on the following point distribution:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Exams	300 points	30%
Quizzes	100 points	10%
In-Class Participation	50 points	5%
Lab Participation	150 points	15%
Lab Practical Exam	100 points	10%
Literature Review Project	300 points	30%
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Total:	1000 points	100%

A = 900 – 1000 points
 B = 800 – 899 points
 C = 700 – 799 points
 D = 600 – 699 points
 F < 600 points

Brief Description of Course Assignments

Exams (300 points)

There will be four **online** exams worth 100 points each: 3 mid-terms and 1 final exam. These exams will be a mixture of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer format. Exam questions will come from textbook readings, lectures, and other class materials. Your grade will be based on 3 of the 4 exams (lowest exam score will be dropped). Because of this, there will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** allowed. This also makes the final exam optional: if you are happy with your grade from the first three exams, you are not required to take the final exam.

****All exams will be given online utilizing D2L.** You will be allowed 80 minutes for each of the regular exams and 110 minutes for the final exam. Exams (except the final exam) will be available online from Thursday at 9:00pm to Saturday at 11:59pm (See course schedule for specific dates). You *must* take the exam during that period. Exams are timed and you will need to complete it in the time allowed – in other words, you do **NOT** have the entire period between Thursday and Saturday to work on the exam!

Quizzes (100 points)

There will be 13 **online** quizzes throughout the course of the semester, worth 10 points each. Your grade will be based on 10 of the 13 quizzes. Because of this, there will be **NO MAKE-UP** quizzes given. These quizzes will be due **by 8:00 am** on the date specified in the course schedule. These quizzes will cover the reading in the textbook and are given (1) to help you keep up with the reading for class and (2) to help you review the material you read.

Literature Review Project (300 points)

The literature review project will be discussed in class in much more detail. The total 300 points is divided into 6 smaller assignments as follows:

Article – 10 points

Annotated Bibliography – 15 points

Rough Draft – 50 points

Peer Review – 25 points

Final Draft – 100 points

Presentation – 100 points

Please refer to the class schedule for due dates. Required format and instructions will be given in class for each part of the project.

Additional Policies:

- **Contacting me** – Please contact me! The best way to contact me is via e-mail. I am also available via phone and text (see number above). I look forward to hearing from you!
- **Cheating and Academic Dishonesty** – *Cheating will not be tolerated under any circumstance.* This includes any situation in which you claim someone else’s work as your own, including plagiarism of scholarly work, copying answers from fellow students, or any other such case. If cheating is suspected on any assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment. Academic dishonesty may lead to an “F” in the course or further disciplinary action from the college discipline officer.
- **Class Attendance** – Class attendance is extremely important (and mandatory). According to college policy, a student will be dropped once they miss 6% of the total hours of class. For this reason, a student will be automatically dropped once they miss more than 4 class/lab periods. If you will miss class for any reason, please notify me immediately. Also note that work missed due to an absence cannot be made up for any reason.
- **D2L** – Use of Desire to Learn (D2L) is required for this class. Exams will be taken online and notes and other resources (such as the syllabus) will be posted there. *Please access D2L frequently!*
- **Accommodations** – All effort will be made to accommodate students who need assistance. Please contact the Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSPS) and notify me of your requested services as soon as possible.
- **Classroom Behavior** – One of the most important aspects of a classroom environment is that students feel comfortable to share ideas and ask questions. To this end, you are expected to respect your fellow students, even if you disagree with their opinions. Additionally, you are encouraged to answer questions posed by your classmates and engage in meaningful, courteous discussion with them. In the event that you are disrupting this environment in any way, you will be asked to leave the class. No missed work due to inappropriate classroom behavior can be made up and continued misbehavior will result in referral to the college disciplinary officer. Lastly, please turn off all electronic devices during class. Use of these devices during class is prohibited and ultimately will only have negative consequences for your grade in the class.
- **Expectations** – College students rank “self-motivation” as the most important reason they learn in any class. As your instructor, I am here to create an environment where you will be actively engaged in course content in order to fully comprehend concepts, as opposed to memorizing materials. In return, I expect that, as a student, you will come to class with an open mind, ready and willing to participate in discussion and activities, and ask questions at any time should something be unclear. I also expect you to invest time in your own learning and complete assignments to the best of your ability.

Course Schedule

Subject to change with notice

Date	Lecture	Notes	Readings	Lab
1/22	Syllabus, Course Ground Rules, & Intro to BioPsych		Syllabus 1.1, 1.3	Build-a-Brain
1/24	Major Issues in BioPsych, Student Learning			
1/29	Cells of the Nervous System	Mod. 2 Quiz	2.1, 2.2	Research Methods (4.3)
1/31	Synapses	Mod. 3 Quiz	3.1, 3.2	
2/5	Neural Communication Review			Neurons
2/7	Anatomy	Mod. 4 Quiz	4.1, 4.2	
2/12	Anatomy			Neurons
2/14	Assignment Review Day			
2/19	Library Orientation			Sheep 1
2/21	How to read a scientific article	Bring article to class Exam #1		
2/26	Development	Mod. 5 Quiz	5.1, 5.2	Sheep 2
2/28	Development			
3/5	Genes and Behavior	Mod. 1.2 Quiz	1.2	Sheep 3
3/7	Genes and Behavior			
3/12	Reproductive Behaviors	Mod. 11 Quiz	11.1, 11.2	Lab Practical
3/14	Reproductive Behaviors			
3/19	Emotion	Mod. 12 Quiz	12.1, 12.2, 12.3	Polygraph
3/21	Stress & Health	Exam #2		
3/26	Spring Break – No Class!			
3/28	Spring Break – No Class!			
4/2	Vision	Mod. 6 Quiz	6.1, 6.2, 6.3	Eye Dissection
4/4	Vision			
4/9	Vision			Visual Neurophysiology
4/11	Other Senses	Mod. 7 Quiz	7.1, 7.2, 7.3	
4/16	Other Senses			Electromyograph Group Work
4/18	Movement	Mod. 8 Quiz	8.1, 8.2, 8.3	
4/23	Wakefulness & Sleep	Mod. 9 Quiz	9.1, 9.2, 9.3	EEG/Mindflex
4/25	Peer Review of Rough Draft	Exam #3		
4/30	Learning and Memory	Mod. 13 Quiz	13.1, 13.2	Biofeedback
5/2	Learning and Memory			
5/7	Lateralization	Mod. 14 Quiz Final Paper Due	14.1	Group Presentations
5/9	Language		14.2	
5/14	Last Day of Class			Group Presentations
5/16	FINAL EXAM	10:00 am – 11:50 am		