

Psychology 2730
Biological Psychology

Spring 2009
TR 1:00 – 2:15 AM
SS 347

Professor's Name: Dr. Matthew Schmolesky
Professor's e-mail: MSCHMOLESKY@WEBER.EDU

**(This is BY FAR the best way to contact me)

Professor's Office Phone: 801-626-8745

Office Hours: TR: 2:15-3:00; also by appointment

Office Location: SS 356

Class Web Site: <http://www.online.weber.edu/>

I. Textbook: Kalat, James. BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY, 9th Ed., Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2007.

II. Web CT – the Course Website

You are required to become familiar with and use the course website via WebCT: <https://www.online.weber.edu/> I will post documents on this site (e.g. copy of syllabus, powerpoint files, writing assignment, etc.) and will occasionally email students with announcements. For technical issues (e.g. having difficulties accessing WebCT or downloading a document) contact computer support by: a) calling 626-7777, or b) emailing csupport@weber.edu, or, c) go to Lampros Hall and ask for assistance. I do not have answers to questions on WebCT technical issues.

III. Course Objectives

- A. To explore the biological basis of human (and animal) behavior from the perspective of scientific psychology and neuroscience.
- B. To introduce students to the field of biological psychology, its different specializations and sub-areas, and methods used in research, teaching and practice. This class covers a wide range of topics including: neuronal signaling, synaptic anatomy and physiology, function and dysfunction of the central nervous system, the biology of sensation and movement, cognitive functions and psychological disorders.
- C. To integrate theories and research with real-life applications so as to make the study of Biological Psychology both interesting and meaningful to the students.
- D. To encourage students to prepare themselves for the real-life application of their degree if they focus upon the biological and physiological aspects of psychology by educating them about different career paths (e.g. clinical, research, industry, etc.).
- E. To appreciate the depth of knowledge currently available concerning the biological basis of behavior and the societal advantages provided by such knowledge in terms of understanding, prediction, and intervention (e.g. through medical and psychological treatment of diseases and disorders).

IV. Course Grade

A. Examinations

1. Five exams will be taken during the course of this semester. Each exam is non-comprehensive and constitutes 16% of your final grade. Two writing assignments will be given (see below) and each will be worth 10% of your final grade.
2. The fifth and final exam will be taken between April 25-April 30. No exams may be taken after Thursday, April 30.
3. All exams will be taken in the Social Sciences Testing Center (SS 036). You will have 2 days to take each exam. Optional review sessions will be held on exam days, so you have scheduled time to take the exams. Please note the testing center hours listed on the web site (currently listed as: 7:30am to 8pm Monday to Thursday, 7:30am-4:30pm Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday). **YOU MUST ARRIVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR** before the testing center closes or they will not permit you to take the exam. You must have your student ID and 10 cents for the scantron to take the exam.

B. Make-up Examinations/Missing Exams

If you know of a conflict with the exam schedule, you may take ANY exam early but **must notify me in writing of your intention to do so as early as possible**. IF FOR ANY REASON YOU MISS AN EXAM you must notify me in writing immediately. You may take the exam one day late (for a 10 point deduction) or two days late (for a 20 point deduction). You will not be able to take an exam three or more “business days” (i.e. days the testing center is open, Mon.-Sat.) after the scheduled dates and will receive a zero for this exam.

C. Writing Assignments

Two writing assignments will be given during the semester. **These assignments are not optional – you must complete them to finish the course.** Assignments are due by classtime on the due date and should be provided in digital and hardcopy (typed, not hand-written). Each assignment is worth 10 % of your final course grade. Late assignments will be graded as follows: One day late = 10 point deduction; two days late = 20 point deduction. Three or more days late = I will grade the paper on a pass/fail basis where a “pass” will allow you to complete the course but you will get no points towards your grade. Plan to turn your assignment in **the day prior to the due date**, just in case you have any problems with computer connections.

Assignment One due at classtime on February 12; *Assignment Two* due at classtime on March 26: paper hardcopy **and** digital version sent to me via email. ****The assignments are posted on WebCT. You may download them and begin working on them at any time.**

D. Extra Credit Opportunities

Each exam will have an extra credit opportunity included with the questions. These are questions that require you to integrate information and go above and beyond what you normally would learn for the exam. You may earn up to 4 percentage points for each exam through the exam extra credit.

E. Grading Scale

The course grade will be assigned according to the scale indicated below:

<u>Numeric Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
60-66	D
Below 60	E

V. Course Outline:

<u>CLASS DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING (pgs)</u>
January 6, 8	The Major Issues	Chap. 1 (27)
January 13, 15	Nerve Cells and Impulses	Chap. 2 (21)
January 20, 22	Synapses	Chap. 3 (30)
January 27	Review Session	
January 27, 28	EXAM 1 (Chaps. 1, 2, 3)	~~WORTH 100 Points
January 29, Feb. 3, 5	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chap. 4 (40)
Feb. 10	Vision	Chap. 6 (44)
Feb. 12	Vision <i>Writing Assignment One due</i>	Chap. 6 (44)
Feb. 17	Review Session	
Feb. 17, 18	EXAM 2 (Chaps. 4, 6)	~~WORTH 100 Points
Feb. 19, 24	The Other Sensory Systems	Chap. 7 (35)
Feb. 26, March 3	Movement	Chap. 8 (34)
March 5	Review	

March 5, 6	EXAM 3 (Chaps. 7, 8)	~~WORTH 100 Points
March 17, 19	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chap. 5 (30)
March 24, 26	The Biology of Learning and Memory <i>Writing Assignment Two due March 26</i>	Chap. 13 (32)
March 31	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chap. 9 (30)
April 2	Review	
April 2, 3	EXAM 4 (Chaps. 5, 13, 9)	~~WORTH 100 Points
April 7, 9	Cognitive Functions	Chap. 14 (36)
April 14	Lab Session	
April 16, 21, 23	Psychological Disorders and closing	Chap. 15 (32)
	Review questions will be provided	
April 25-30	EXAM 5 (Chaps. 14, 15)	~~WORTH 100 Points

NO CLASSES: January 19, February 16, March 9-13

VI. Additional Information

A. Attendance

Attendance is not required for this class but is **STRONGLY** encouraged and will be monitored. Anything discussed in class may be included on an exam, even if that information is not found in the textbook or online resources. Thus, it is in everyone's best interest to attend. ****IF you miss class, there are two things you can do to get the material you missed. You may get the outline from the PowerPoint on WebCT, and/or you may get notes from a classmate. DO NOT not email me or come to my office to ask what you missed.** It is your responsibility to attend class or, if you cannot, contact a classmate to catch up. Please **DO** email me or come to my office for any other purpose if you think I can be of help.

B. Class Contact

Often it is necessary to miss a part or all of class. When that happens, or when you have questions that you cannot answer on your own, it is helpful to have the name and number of another student in class that you can contact. Please use the space below to write down the name, email, and phone number of at least two students in this class. **AND** you can use WebCT to email anyone in the class.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CLASSMATES:

Name

Phone or Email

Name

Phone or Email

C. Class Courtesy

This is a large class, so please be courteous of others when coming late to or leaving early from class. Do not make a habit of arriving late or leaving early as many (including me) find it very distracting. The following behaviors are rude when they take place during class time: a) holding private conversations, b) sleeping, c) reading other material, or d) doing other work. Drinking (but not eating) in class is permitted, so long as it is not disruptive to the learning environment. ****POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES: ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE TO BE OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT/REACH DURING CLASS AND TESTS.** Any disruptive behavior will be addressed immediately, and if the behavior does not cease, you will be asked to leave class. **Students repeatedly engaging in rude behavior will be counseled to drop the course.**

D. Grade Appeals

If, after receiving an exam back during class, you think a mistake has been made in the grading of **your** exam, please do not ask about this during class. Write/type down on a sheet of paper what your questions are, provide reference to notes in class or specific pages from the book, and turn in these questions to the instructor at the end of the class period. You will receive a response, and any grade adjustment necessary, within one week. You may also do this with writing assignments. **THIS IS THE ONLY WAY** that your concerns will be addressed. **ONLY** written questions and comments **THAT YOU SUPPORT** will be evaluated.

E. Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating

I encourage students to work and study together whenever possible. **However, students must hand in their own work.** Whenever you try to pass off someone's work that is not your own, that is cheating. If you cheat on **ANY** assignment (even extra credit), you will receive a grade of **E (Failing) for the course**. Plagiarism is when you represent someone else's ideas or words as your own. For a very detailed description of plagiarism, please go to the web site and review the **PLAGIARISM** description. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism. **ANY** plagiarism (even unintentional) will result in a failing grade in the course. Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of infringements that constitute cheating:
<http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>.

F. Completing all Work

All assignments must be completed in order for students to pass the course.

Students will receive a grade of I (incomplete) if any work is missing when the final grades are computed. The grade of I will turn into a UW if the work is not completed in a timely fashion.

G. Students with Disabilities

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

H. Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of all WSU student rights and responsibilities: <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>

VII. Testing Center Hours

All exams will be taken in the Social Sciences Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Sciences building (SS 036). In order to take an exam, you must show up on the correct date at the appropriate times (NOTE: you must arrive at least one hour before closing) with a form of picture ID and 10 cents for the scantron. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID or if you show up after hours. Please see the Social Science Testing Center hours listed at: <http://departments.weber.edu/testingcenter/hours.htm>

VIII. Grade Record

Please keep a record of the grades you receive on each assignment. You may also access your grades using the MY GRADES tool on WebCT. Grades are updated within 1 week of the end of every exam.

NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. I am committed to following the syllabus but there is no guarantee that I will. Altering the syllabus may also mean changing the nature or timing of exams/assignments. **By continuing in the course after reading the syllabus, you are indicating that you accept the terms of the syllabus.** March 6 is the last day to drop with a W.