

ONLINE Psychology 2730
Biological Psychology
Fall 2009

Professor's Name: Dr. Matthew Schmolesky

Professor's e-mail: WebCT email via the course website (*or* MSCHMOLESKY@WEBER.EDU) ****This is BY FAR the best way to contact me**

Professor's Office Phone: 801-626-8745

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 intimately familiar with and use the course website via WebCT: <https://www.online.weber.edu/> I will post all relevant files on this site (e.g. powerpoint files, weblinks, etc.), will host chats and discussions on this site, and you will use this site to access and complete all homework assignments. I will also occasionally email students with announcements. Note that I do not have answers to questions on WebCT technical issues. 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* (if possible and you prefer it), c) go to Lampros Hall on the Ogden campus. Computer support is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **NOTE:** Computer difficulty or failure is NOT an excuse for missing deadlines! Test your computer in advance, and work ahead of the deadlines.

III. Chitester – The web-based system used for exams

One practice exam and all five regular exams must be completed using Chitester. You can take these exams in two ways: A) if you are able to take the test at a WSU Testing Center you can simply go to the center, give the staff member your photo ID, my name and the name of the course and exam and they will set you up. B) If you cannot, or choose not, to take the exam at a WSU testing center you must take the exam at an approved proctoring site or arrange for an authorized proctor. All of the information you will need for either option is found at: <http://wsuonline.weber.edu/students/testing/>

After reading through the info at the link above, if you have any questions or concerns, please call the Chi Tester Support Line at 801-626-6477.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You MUST decide how you will take exams (option A or option B) within the first week of class and, if you decide on option B, set up a proctor during this time. The required "Practice Exam" will be taken during the second week of the course. For proctored students, it is also recommended that you make any test requests and arrangements with your proctor 3-5 days before you plan to take the exam. Failure to take the exam during the scheduled time period will result in a zero for that exam. It is your responsibility to either visit a WSU testing center or have arranged a proctored exam during the scheduled exam periods (see course schedule below).

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. One practice exam will be administered the second week of the course to give you practice using the Chitester system; it will be scored but not counted towards your final grade. Five regular exams will be taken during the course of this semester. Each regular exam is non-comprehensive and your lowest exam score will be dropped. Each of the four exam scores that are counted towards your final course grade will constitute 16% of this grade. Anything in the supplied online materials or assigned textbook materials may be included on an exam. You are **strongly encouraged** to read through all of the supplied materials, think about the issues, discuss them with myself and each other (via the 'discussion' and 'chat' tools) and ask questions as the course continues (not just the day before a homework or exam is due).
2. The fifth and final exam will be taken December 5-10.
3. All exams will be taken via the online **Chitester** system as described above. You may NOT make-up any exam that is missed. You have 4 days to take each exam, so please schedule your time wisely. **NO EXAMINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE EXAMINATION PERIOD IS OVER.** Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. If after

the 4 preliminary exams you have an A average, you do NOT have to take the last exam. Do well during the semester and you will be rewarded.

4. You may take your exams from any WSU testing center, or at an established proctoring center, or by establishing an approved proctor. Guidelines for how to complete exams using Chitester using any of these three methods can be found at:
<http://wsuonline.weber.edu/students/testing/>

All exams must be completed by the final exam date. The final time at which you may submit the exam will be determined by the testing center hours of operation (contact them for their current hours) or by your proctor, but **MUST** be submitted no later than 11:58PM in any case. If you have not completed the exam by the final exam date you will receive a zero for that exam. I will not make exceptions to this rule so be sure to take the exam and submit the exam early. Exams will be timed and you will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

B. Homework

All homeworks will be completed using the course website on WebCT. Complete the “Practice Homework” as soon as possible to learn how homework assignments are done via WebCT. You will not be able to begin Homework 1 until you have achieved a minimum of 90% on the Practice Homework.

Five homework assignments will be administered throughout the semester; your lowest scoring homework will be dropped. You have 1 homework assignment for each exam during the semester. Each homework assignment will be made available on a Monday and you will have until that Saturday to complete it. See homework availability and due dates on the course outline. **YOU MAY TAKE EACH HOMEWORK TWICE, AND ONLY TWICE** (the higher of the two scores will be recorded as your grade for the assignment). I recommend you study in advance and use your first attempt to see how you do without your book or notes. Then work through the questions offline and use your second attempt to get the highest score possible, using all materials and resources. Homework assignments are not timed: you may take as long as necessary to complete it once you begin. However, be sure to save each answer as you go since it is always possible you may be kicked offline by accident. All assignments together count 20% of your final grade. Note that the purpose of the homework assignments is **NOT** to quiz you on the exact same set of concepts and facts that will be tested on in the exams. While there will certainly be overlap, the exams will draw from additional content and concepts found in your assigned readings and supplementary materials (e.g. powerpoints). Regarding the homework assignments;

YOU MAY:

- Use your textbook, notes, and all online resources to help you answer the questions
- Copy and paste the questions into a text file so that you can work through the problems offline
- Help each other regarding the content via discussion or chat postings
- Give pointers regarding where to find answers (e.g. powerpoints, textbook pages, etc.)

YOU MAY NOT:

- Simply ask for, or give, an answer to one of your classmates for a specific question.

C. Writing Assignment

One writing assignment will be given during the semester. Assignments are due by 11:58PM on November 4th and should be provided as a .doc or .rtf (i.e. rich text format) file attached to an email sent to me on WebCT. The 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 = zero. Plan to turn your assignment in **the day prior to the due date**, just in case you have any problems with computer connections. The assignment is posted on WebCT and you may begin work on it at any time. This is an individual assignment – you may have a friend or colleague read your work to help you spot errors but the work must be your own.

D. 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>
August 24 – Sept. 12	The Major Issues Nerve Cells and Impulses	Chap. 1 (27) Chap. 2 (21)
August 24 at 12:01am	Practice Homework available	
August 31 at 11:58pm	Practice Homework due	Not graded, but required in order to continue the course and access Homework 1
August 31 at 12:01am	Homework 1 available	
September 5 at 11:58pm	Homework 1 due	WORTH 5% of grade
SEPT 9 at 12:01am to SEPT 12 at 11:58pm	EXAM 1 (Chaps. 1, 2)	WORTH 16% of grade
Sept 14 – October 3	Synapses; Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chap. 3 (30) Chap. 4 (40)
Sept 21 at 12:01am	Homework 2 available	
Sept 26 at 11:58pm	Homework 2 due	WORTH 5% of grade
SEPT 30 at 12:01am to OCT 3 at 11:58pm	EXAM 2 (Chaps. 3, 4)	WORTH 16% of grade
October 5 -24	Vision The Other Sensory Systems	Chap. 6 (44) Chap. 7 (35)
October 12 at 12:01am	Homework 3 available	
October 17 at 11:58pm	Homework 3 due	WORTH 5% of grade
OCT 21 at 12:01am to OCT 24 at 11:58pm	EXAM 3 (Chaps. 6, 7)	WORTH 16% of grade
October 26-November 14	Development and Plasticity of the Brain; The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chap. 5 (30) Chap. 13 (32)

November 2 at 12:01am	Homework 4 available	
November 4	Writing Assignment Due	WORTH 10% of grade
November 7 at 11:58pm	Homework 4 due	WORTH 5% of grade
NOV 11 at 12:01am to NOV 14 at 11:58pm	EXAM 4 (Chaps. 5, 13)	WORTH 16% of grade
November 16 – Dec 10	Cognitive Functions Psychological Disorders	Chap. 14 (36) Chap. 15 (32)
November 23 at 12:01am	Homework 5 available	
December 1 at 11:58pm	Homework 5 due	WORTH 5% of grade
DEC 4 at 12:01am to DEC 10 at 11:58pm	EXAM 5 (Chaps. 14, 15)	WORTH 16% of grade

NO CLASSES: Sept. 7, Oct. 16, Nov. 26-27

VI. Additional Information

A. Discussion and Chat Sessions

Participation in discussion and chat sessions online is not required for this class but is **STRONGLY** encouraged and will be monitored. Each of you may have questions that other students, or I, can answer and other students can benefit from. Thus, it is in everyone's best interest to post questions and answers using the 'discussion' and 'chat' tools.

B. Have a Question?

****IF** you are confused or unsure about any technical details (i.e. pop-up blockers, cookies, Java, getting a file to load, etc etc) you should: contact computer support by: a) calling 626-7777, or b) emailing csupport@weber.edu, or (if possible and you prefer it), c) go to Lampros Hall on the Ogden campus. Computer support is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You might also try posting a chat or discussion question to see if one of your classmates has a quick fix.

****IF** you are confused or unsure about any of the Biopsych materials or concepts in the course, you should:

- Read and think about it first. Problem-solving on your own is the best way to learn material and develop confidence.
- Then use the chat tool or discussion tool to see if another student knows the answer. I also read the chats and discussions and will respond if needed.
- If you still have a question, email me through WebCT or call me at my office.

C. Class Courtesy

Please be courteous in any email, discussion, or chat postings you make. Any disruptive behavior will be addressed immediately. **Students repeatedly engaging in rude behavior will be counseled to drop the course.**

D. Grade Appeals

If, after receiving a homework or exam grade, you think a mistake has been made in the grading of **your** exam, please do not ask about this during a general discussion or chat session. Email me directly regarding your specific questions and provide reference to the online materials or specific pages from the book. You will receive a response, and any grade adjustment necessary, within one week. **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, 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 academic dishonesty and plagiarism. 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. Students with Disabilities

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Contact information may be found at: <http://departments.weber.edu/ssd/>

G. 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. Grade Record

Please keep a record of the grades you receive on each assignment. You may access your grades using the MY GRADES tool on WebCT. Your grades will be posted within 1-2 days after a homework or exam final due date.

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.** November 3 is the last day to drop with a W.