

# Psychology 2730

## Biological Psychology

### Fall 2015 ONLINE

**Professor's Name:** Paula Fiet, M.Ed.

**Professor's e-mail:** paulafiet@weber.edu OR Through Canvas mail tool

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

**Office Hours:** Online by appointment; Weekly Chat Sessions

#### I. Required Materials

Kalat, James. BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY, 10th Ed., Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2009.

#### II. Course Grade

##### A. Examinations

1. Five exams will be taken during the course of this semester. I realize five exams seems like too many, however, I break the material into four smaller exams (non-comprehensive) that each cover **only two chapters**. The last exam (final exam) will be comprehensive. Each exam is worth 16% of your final grade. The lowest exam grade will be dropped. This includes the final. If you study hard and do well on the four exams and you are happy with your grade, you do not have to take the final.

2. All exams will be taken using chi tester, which is a computerized testing program. You may take the exams from any WSU testing center during the exam period. You will have 3 days to take each exam. If you miss the exam period, you may take the exam 1 day late at a 20% penalty, but you must notify me in writing **before the exam period is over** to set up a late exam. If you miss the exam period and do not contact me, or if you contact me and fail to take the exam one day late, you will receive a zero for the exam.

3. You may also set up a proctor to take the exams, if you are not able to make it to a WSU testing center. More information on setting up a proctor can be found on our course website AND by going to <http://wsuonline.weber.edu> and selecting TESTING

INFORMATION, or go to:

<http://departments.weber.edu/ce/distancelearning/testing.aspx..>

4. After the exam period is over, you may review the exam on chi tester to see which questions you missed. You should ALWAYS do this, as it helps you figure out how to do better on future exams! Go to [chitester.weber.edu](http://chitester.weber.edu) to review the questions you missed on each exam (after the exam period is over; you can't review it during the test period).

5. If you know of a conflict with the exam schedule, please notify me early in the semester. You may take ANY exam a day early (you must notify me in writing at least a week in advance to do this).

## **B. Homework**

Eight homework assignments will be due during the semester, with one homework assignment due each week (except for the last week and the week of the writing assignment). Homework assignments will be completed using Chi Tester. The assignments can be accessed through the ASSIGNMENTS link on the toolbar. You may see the questions before you submit them, and you may work on the questions at your own pace, as long as you submit the assignment by the due date. All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on Thursday nights during the course. All homeworks combined are worth 18% of your final grade, and one homework assignment grade will be dropped at the end of the semester (so only seven will go into your final grade). No late assignments are allowed. For more information on how to do and turn in your homework, please see the information about homework on the main course web page.

## **C. Research Paper/Writing Assignment**

You will have one writing assignment to complete during the semester. This assignment can be turned in any time between 9/8 and 12/3 during the semester, but is due no later than 11:59 on **12/3/15**, and it should be submitted through Canvas. This assignment is designed to allow you to gain knowledge of biological psychology, and it is worth 18% of your final grade. Please see the course website for additional information about the writing assignment.

## D. Grading Scale

The course grade will be assigned according as follows:

<u>Numeric Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90 -100	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

## III. Course Outline

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
8/31 Class begins	Review Syllabus and study Chap. 2	Read and thoroughly explore <b>ALL</b> class information on Canvas. Begin homework #1
9/7/15	Study Chap.3	<b>Homework #1 – Open 8/31 due by 9/10</b> Begin homework #2
9/14	Finish homework #2 and begin reviewing for exam	<b>Homework #2 – Open 9/7 due by 9/17</b>
9/21/15	<b>EXAM #1</b> Chap. 2, 3 & Syllabus Study Chap.4	<b>EXAM #1 - Due 9/21-23</b> Begin homework #3
9/28/15	Study Chap. 4	<b>Homework #3 – Open 9/21 due by 10/1</b>
10/5/15	Study Chap. 5	<b>Homework #4 – Open 9/28 due by 10/8</b>
10/12/15	<b>Review for EXAM #2</b> Chap. 4 & 5 Study Chap.6	<b>EXAM #2 - Due 10/12-10/14</b> Begin homework #5
10/19/15	Study Chap. 6	<b>Homework #5 – Open 10/12 due by 10/22</b>
10/26/15	Study Chan 7	<b>Homework #6 – Open 10/19 due by 10/29</b>

11/2/15	<b>Review for EXAM 3</b> Chap. 6 & 7 Study Chap. 13	<b>EXAM #3 - Due 11/2-11/4</b> Begin homework #7
11/9/15	Study Chap. 13	<b>Homework #7 – Open 11/2 due by 11/12</b>
11/16/15	Study Chap. 15	<b>Homework #8 – Open 11/9 due by 11/19</b>
11/23/15	<b>Review for EXAM 4</b> Chap. 13 & 15	<b>EXAM #4 - Due 11/23-11/25</b> (Thanksgiving Break 26-27)
11/30/15	<b>Research Writing Assignment</b>	<b>Research Writing Assignment – Open 9/8 due by 12/3</b>
12/7 & 12/14/15	<b>Study for FINAL EXAM #5 - Ch. 2,3,4,5,6,7,13, &amp; 15</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM - Due 12/12-12/16</b>

\*\*\*Assignments can be submitted during OPEN dates only. There is one week opening for each homework assignment, and 9/8-12/3 open to submit the research article.

\*\*\*All homework assignments are due on Thursdays by 11:59 pm. All exams run Monday through Wednesday.

## IV. Additional Information

### A. Grade Appeals

If, after receiving an exam back, you think a mistake has been made in the grading of your exam, please email (through Canvas) your concern and provide specific support for your claim. For example, if you feel a different answer was better than the one indicated as the correct answer, you may list information from the text or from the web site which indicates a better answer. Written and supported claims are the only ones which will be considered.

### B. Plagiarism/Cheating

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. Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of infringements that constitute cheating: <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>. 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 course web site

and review the PLAGIARISM description in the HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM document. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism. ANY plagiarism (even unintentional) will result in a failing grade in the course. WSU subscribes to Turnitin.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work. Enrollment in this course may require that some or all of your assignments be submitted to Turnitin this semester. Documents submitted to Turnitin are retained, anonymously, in the company's databases.

### **C. Students with Disabilities**

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please go to <http://weber.edu/SSD> for more information about how to contact SSD. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

### **D. Emergency Closure**

If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will continue to conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements on Canvas and through emails for more information. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

### **V. 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).

## **VI. Grade Record**

Please keep note of your grades in the Canvas grade book. I will update the grade book approximately once a week, so grades will not be updated instantly for all assignments.

Each exam is worth 16% of your final grade, and all homework assignments combined are worth 16% of your final grade. Your writing assignment is also worth 16% of your final grade.

**\*\*The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. By continuing in the course after reading the syllabus, you are indicating that you accept the terms of the syllabus.**