

SYLLABUS

Title: Biological Psychology
Course: Psychology 2730
Instructor: Doug R. Richards, Ph.D.
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Year: Spring Semester 2012
Phone: (801) 822-2289
Rooms: Social & Behavioral Science 347
Times: M W F 10:30-11:20 AM
Office Hour: F 11:30-12:20 pm
Office: Adjunct Faculty Office Behavioral & Social Science 380E (Weber campus)

Required Text: Biological Psychology – Stephen Klein & B. Michael Thorne

Course Objectives

Students should develop a comprehensive knowledge of the basic theories, concepts and applications of biological psychology as measured by two mid-term examinations and a final examination.

Students should be able to critically evaluate and respond to theories and concepts of biological psychology by preparing a presentation on a topic in biological psychology.

Class Schedule

Class Date	Chapter Title/Topic	Reading/Due Dates
Jan 2 nd , 4 th , 6 th	An Introduction to Biological Psychology	Chapter 1
Jan 9 th , 11 th , 13 th	Exploring the Nervous System	Chapter 2
Jan 18 th , 20 th , 23 rd	The Development and Plasticity of the Nervous System	Chapter 3
Jan 25 th , 27 th , 30 th	Communication Within the Nervous System	Chapter 4
Feb 1 st , 3 rd , 6 th	The Effects of Psychoactive Drugs	Chapter 5

FEB 7th – FEB 11th First Exam in the Testing Centers (*Chapters 1-5 using Chi-Tester*)

Feb 8 th , 10 th , 13 th	Vision	Chapter 6
Feb 15 th , 17 th , 22 nd	The Neurological Control of Movement	Chapter 8
Feb 24 th , 27 th , 29 th	Wakefulness & Sleep	Chapter 9
Mar 2 nd , 5 th , 7 th	Biology of Eating & Drinking	Chapter 10
Mar 9 th , 19 th , 21 st	Sexual Development & Sexual Behavior	Chapter 11

MAR 22nd – MAR 27th Second Exam in the Testing Centers (*Chapters 6,8-11 using Chi-Tester*)

Mar 23 rd , 26 th , 28 th	The Biology of Emotion and Stress	Chapter 12
Mar 30 th , Apr 2 nd , 4 th	Language & Lateralization	Chapter 13
Apr 6 th , 9 th , 11 th	The Biology of Learning & Memory	Chapter 14
Apr 13 th , 16 th	The Biological Basis of Affective Disorders & Schizophrenia	Chapter 15

APRIL 17th - 19th FINAL EXAMINATION (Chapters 12-15 using Chi-Tester) in the Testing Centers

Examinations: This course will consist of three examinations (including the Final examination). The tests will all be of the same format and will come from lecture material, videos and material covered in the text. A study guide will be provided to help focus your study in preparation for the exam (but it does not cover all questions). An exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (100 points). As you can see from the schedule, the final examination will **not** be comprehensive (on purpose anyway, sometimes material tends to build on itself). The tests will be administered through Chi-Tester (chitester.weber.edu) at the various Weber State University Testing Centers. The Student Services Testing Center (room 262), Social and Behavioral Science Testing Center (SS building – room 38), Science Lab building (room 228), Shepard Union Building (room 323). Check each center for specific hours. **EXAMS CANNOT BE MADE UP.**

In Class Assignments/Quizzes: This course will also have in class assignments which will be worth 3 pts each for a total of 42 points. The quizzes will be on the assigned reading for the week. These assignments/quizzes **CANNOT** be made up regardless of excuse.

Presentations: You will be required to prepare one presentation using power-point (.ppt or .pptx) on a relevant topic (100 pts). One of the most effective ways to learn something is to prepare a meaningful presentation. The presentation will be on an individual basis. Choose a topic that is related to one of our chapters. Be very **specific** with your subject. For example, if you choose the chapter on the biology of eating and drinking, choose a topic such as bulimia in teenagers or drug treatments for weight loss etc. It **doesn't** need to be in the chapter but should at least be **related** to the chapter that you have chosen. I will **SUBTRACT** points if the presentation merely summarizes the chapter present in the book. Be creative, don't hesitate to use personal experience as well. The minimum number of slides should be 30. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me beforehand. Please turn the presentation in on or before **April 6th**. If you turn the presentation in early enough you may be able to improve the grade received with a suitable revision (last day for that option is **March 23rd**). E-mail the presentation to my e-mail account at dougrichards@weber.edu or doug_r_richards@hotmail.com. The hotmail account is more reliable.

I will grade the presentations as follows:

Organization	20 pts.
Knowledge of the subject	15 pts.
Specific topic chosen (related to chapter)	5 pts.
Research (psychological or scientific studies)	20 pts.
Good use of illustrations, pictures or animation	10 pts.
Has a point of view	5 pts.
Creativity	15 pts.
Statements made are clearly supported	10 pts.
Simply summarizes entire chapter	-5 pts.

Grading: The most strict performance standards that I will use (may be modified down according to class performance)

A = 94-100%
 A- = 90-93%
 B+ = 87-89%
 B = 83-86%
 B- = 80-82%
 C+ = 77-79%
 C = 73-76%
 C- = 70-72%
 D+ = 67-69%
 D = 63-66%
 D- = 60-62%
 E = below 60%

Note: Attendance and persistence in the class is always rewarded despite scores

Point Totals:

First Exam (FEB 7th – FEB 11th)	100 points
Second Exam: (MAR 22nd – MAR 27th)	100 points
Final Exam: (APRIL 17th - 19th)	100 points
Presentation (APR 6th)	100 points
In-Class Assignments/Quizzes	42 points

Total points possible 442 points

Power-points will be made available on Blackboard under Course Content – Content.

Blackboard can be accessed through the web-site <http://online.weber.edu> . You will have to login and give a username and password which should be the same as your Wildcat username and password (this can be obtained online or with IT using your W number). Please e-mail me if you have any questions.

Academic Honesty: as members of the Weber State University academic community, students shall:

1. Maintain academic standards including institutional, school, departmental, program, and individual course standards;
2. Maintain academic ethics and honesty. To this end, the following activities are specifically prohibited:
 - a. Cheating, which includes but is not limited to:

- i) Copying from another student's test;
- ii) Using materials during a test not authorized by the person giving the test;
- iii) Collaborating with any other person during a test without authorization;
- iv) Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of any test without authorization of the appropriate University official
- v) Bribing any other person to obtain any test;
- vi) Soliciting or receiving unauthorized information about any test;
- vii) Substituting for another student or permitting any other person to substitute for oneself to take a test.
- b. Plagiarism, which is the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person's or group's ideas or work. This includes purchased or borrowed papers;
- c. Collusion, which is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit;
- d. Falsification, which is the intentional and unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation in an academic exercise, activity, or record-keeping process;
- e. Giving, selling, or receiving unauthorized course or test information;
- f. Using any unauthorized resource or aid in the preparation or completion of any course work, exercise, or activity;
- g. Infringing on the copyright law of the United States which prohibits the making of reproductions of copyrighted material except under certain specified conditions.

Cheating infractions:

1. The first infraction shall result in a score of 0 (zero) points for the particular test, paper, presentation, activity etc.
2. The second infraction shall result in a failing grade (E) for the course.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to make changes in a) course schedule, b) course requirements, c) course grading procedures, and/or d) any other aspects of the course at any time. Any alterations will be circumspect and will be made in the best interests of the students, the course, and the instructor.