

SYLLABUS

Title: Biological Psychology (32422)
Course: Psychology 2730
Instructor: Doug R. Richards, Ph.D.
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Year: Spring Semester 2015
Phone/Text: (801) 626-8745; (801) 822-2289 (text is preferred)
Room: Social & Behavioral Science 347
Times: T Th 9:00 AM – 10:10 AM
Office: Social & Behavioral Science 356
Office Hours: M W, 10:30-11:20 AM or by appointment

Required Text: Biological Psychology – Stephen Klein & B. Michael Thorne
Supplemental Text (*not required*): Biological Psychology (11th edition) James W. Kalat (K)

Course Objectives

Objective 1: Knowledge.

Explore the field of biological psychology, its different specializations and sub-areas, and methods used in research, teaching and practice. Areas covered include: 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.

Class Requirement

Students will show their knowledge with two mid-term exams and a final.

Objective 2: Application

Integrate theories and research with real-life applications so as to make the study of Biological Psychology both interesting and meaningful. 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). Students will also be encouraged 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.)

Class Requirement

Students will show their ability to apply knowledge with the in-class assignments and tests.

Objective 3: Values/Ethics

Students will share key values adopted by biopsychologists and neuroscientists, which include (but are not limited to) skepticism and intellectual curiosity, ethical treatment of animal and human subjects, and proper use of the scientific method to understand nervous system function and dysfunction.

Class Requirement

Students will show mastery by doing in-class assignments and class participation.

Objective 4: Communication

Students will exhibit skills to professionally communicate their understanding of terms, concepts, research, and theories of the discipline to others via written and oral formats.

Class Requirement

Students will show their mastery of communication skills by preparing a slide presentation on a chosen topic.

Class Schedule

Class Date	Chapter Title/Topic	Reading/Due Dates
Jan 13 th , 15 th	An Introduction to Biological Psychology	Chapter 1 (K 1)
Jan 20 th , 22 nd	Exploring the Nervous System	Chapter 2 (K 2, 4)
Jan 27 th , 29 th	The Development and Plasticity of the Nervous System	Chapter 3 (K 5)
Feb 3 rd , 5 th	Communication Within the Nervous System	Chapter 4 (K3)
Feb 10 th , 12 th	The Effects of Psychoactive Drugs	Chapter 5 (K3)
FEB 14th – FEB 17th First Exam in the Testing Centers (Chapters 1-5 using Chi-Tester)		
Feb 17 th , 19 th	Vision	Chapter 6 (K 6)
Feb 24 th , 26 th	The Neurological Control of Movement	Chapter 8 (K 8)
Mar 3 rd , 5 th	Wakefulness & Sleep	Chapter 9 (K 9)
Mar 17 th , 19 th	Biology of Eating & Drinking	Chapter 10 (K 10)
Mar 24 th , 26 th	Sexual Development & Sexual Behavior	Chapter 11 (K 11)
MAR 28th – MAR 31st Second Exam in the Testing Centers (Chapters 6,8-11 using Chi-Tester)		
Mar 31 st , Apr 2 nd	The Biology of Emotion and Stress	Chapter 12 (K 12)
Apr 7 th , 9 th	Language & Lateralization	Chapter 13 (K 14)
Apr 14 th , 16 th	The Biology of Learning & Memory	Chapter 14 (K 13)
Apr 21 st , 23 rd	The Biological Basis of Affective Disorders & Schizophrenia	Chapter 15 (K 15)
APR 28th - 30th 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 and possible essay questions. 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/Essays: This course will also have in class assignments (14) which will be worth 7 pts each for a total of 98 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 23rd**. E-mail the presentation as an attachment to my e-mail account at doug_r_richards@hotmail.com. **Please**, use your full name in naming your file. In addition, on the e-mail please put the time and day that your class meets. The hotmail account will be more reliable than Canvas. If you are using an Apple product, please use *save as* to save as a .ppt or .pptx. My computer cannot read .key files.

I will grade the presentations as follows:

Proper grammar & citations	5 pts.
Organization	5 pts.
In-depth knowledge of the subject	15 pts.
Research (psychological or scientific studies)	30 pts.
Statements are supported by evidence	10 pts.
Good use of illustrations, pictures or animation	10 pts.
Has a point of view	5 pts.
Creativity	15 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

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be offered later in the semester for research participation.

Point Totals:

First Exam (FEB 14th – FEB 17th)	100 points
Second Exam: (MAR 28th – MAR 31st)	100 points
Final Exam: (APR 28th – APR 30th)	100 points
Presentation (APR 23rd)	100 points
In-Class Assignments/Quizzes	98 points

Total points possible 498 points

Power-points will be made available on Canvas under Files as well as the Study Guides.

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.

Disability Accommodation:

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Please refer to SSD's website for more information: <http://weber.edu/ssd>

Emergency Closure Statement:

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