Syllabus

Updated 8/28/2015

Course: Biological Psychology, U09-Psychology 3401

Semester: FALL 2015

Description: Beginning with nerve cells and progressing through the development, structure, and function of the nervous system, this course provides an overview of sensory and motor activity and of the higher processes of learning, memory and language. Brain injury resulting from stroke or trauma and diseases like Alzheimer's, schizophrenia and autism are covered, along with findings illuminating their causes and treatments. We use text, lectures, animations, discussion, and readings in contemporary research.

A term paper is required

Prerequisite: Psychology 100

Instructor: David Crowley, dcrowley@wustl.edu (314) 378-5173


Online text resources: http://www.mindsmachine.com/

Content Management System: Blackboard – Use WUSTL Key

Weekly Course Schedule:

1. Introduction & Cells and Structures (Ch 1 & 2) – August 27
2. Neurophysiology: (Ch3) – September 3
3. Chemistry of Behavior (Ch 4) – September 10
4. The Sensorimotor System (Ch 5) – September 17
5. Exam 1 - September 24
6. Hearing, Balance, Taste and Smell (Ch 6) – October 1
7. Vision (Ch 7) – October 8
8. Hormones and Sex (Ch 8) – October 15
9. Homeostasis (Ch 9) & Biological Rhythms and Sleep (Ch 10) – October 22
10. Exam 2 – October 29
11. Emotions, Aggression and Stress (Ch 11) – November 5
12. Psychopathology (Ch 12) – November 12
13. Memory, Learning and Development (Ch 13) – November 19
   Thanksgiving – November 26
14. Attention and Consciousness (Ch 14) & Language and our Divided Brain (Ch 15) (Term paper due) – December 3
15. Exam 3 – December 10
Grade Percentages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Term Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Online Quizzes</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (Attendance, Discussion and Peer Review)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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Grade Conversion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Cutoff</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Cutoff</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97.00</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>73.00</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93.00</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>90.00</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>67.00</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>87.00</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>63.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>77.00</td>
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Learning Objectives

1. Learn the basic anatomy and physiology of the nervous system as it relates to cognitive processing and behavioral control.
2. Develop reading and writing skills for technical papers and give constructive feedback in peer review discussions.
3. Understand the methods of research used to support neural and psychological science.
4. Acquire the ability to think critically about the application of research findings to an understanding of the physiological basis of and behavior and cognition.

Course Format

1. The first hour of each session will be devoted to discussion of course content and peer-review of student term paper proposals and drafts.
2. The second hour will comprise lecture and slides presented by the instructor.
3. There will be an online quiz for the material in each chapter to be completed by the next class meeting following coverage of the chapter.
4. A term paper on a topic mutually agreeable to the student and instructor is required.
5. There will be three exams covering five chapters each.

**Weekly Online Quizzes**

1. Each non-exam week there will be a quiz on the Blackboard website on the chapter(s) that we covered in class.
2. To complete these quizzes you may use any resources EXCEPT other people. That is, don’t collaborate. Use the book, the internet, or whatever you want, but do it on your own.
3. The quizzes are HOMEWORK intended to help you learn. Each week’s quiz will be available before class (Thursday night), and **must be completed by 11:59 pm on the following Wednesday**. There is no time limit on the quizzes as long as you finish by the deadline.
4. You make retake the quizzes as often as you like but only the **highest score** achieved by **the due date and time** will be counted.
5. Your final quiz grade will be based on the average of the highest scoring **14 of the 15 quizzes**.
6. There will be no makeup quizzes.

**Peer Review Sessions**

1. Students will meet in assigned groups of 3 to offer constructive feedback on each other’s term papers and drafts
2. The instructor will guide the peer-review process and will not critique students’ writing but will grade participation in the peer process.
3. The instructor will provide written guidelines for the peer review process.
4. The instructor will provide written guidelines for term papers and term paper proposals.

**Term Paper**

A research paper of 2000-3000 words is required on a topic relating to the physiology underlying a documented psychological phenomenon or disease. The paper must include proper citations to peer-reviewed scientific research. Specific guidelines including grading criteria and examples will be supplied. The in-class peer review sessions will help to clarify your writing.

**Exams**

1. Exams will be done during the normal class times on the dates given in the course Schedule.
2. There will be three multiple-choice exams, one after each set of 5 chapters. Each exam will focus primarily on the 5 chapters just covered, but will also contain a few questions from earlier chapters. Exams will consist of questions based on both lecture material and the assigned readings.
3. If you are absent for an exam, you will get a score of 0. If illness or other extraordinary circumstances will prevent you from being present for an exam, you must notify me BEFORE THE EXAM. If I consider the absence excusable, you will be able to arrange a make-up exam within one week of the original exam date. Make-up exams are administered by appointment in the University College office.
4. If you feel that an item on your test has been graded incorrectly, you may submit the Item Review Form (posted on Blackboard), and I will re-grade the item in question.

**Classroom Etiquette/Logistics**
1. Be mentally present. I will strive to not be boring.
2. Do your part to minimize distraction. Silence your cell phone, no texting.
3. Laptops (muted) are okay for note-taking.
4. Food and drink are OK as long as they don’t cause distraction.
5. We usually take a break halfway through the 2-hour class.
6. Ask questions. Speak up whenever you have questions, don’t understand something, have answers, or have ideas. Asking questions is a sign of wisdom!

**Accommodations and Assistance**

For general academic assistance, consult your academic adviser and take advantage of Cornerstone's wide variety of student resources: [http://cornerstone.wustl.edu](http://cornerstone.wustl.edu) (314-935-5970). If you require special accommodations for lecture or for taking exams please contact the Disability Resources Coordinator at Cornerstone.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to comply with the University’s policy on academic integrity. If you are uncertain about what constitutes a violation of the policy, ask the instructor, or access the policy at: [http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html](http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html)

**Course Evaluation**

You should plan on participating in the course evaluation at the end of the semester and may do so by visiting: [http://evals.wustl.edu](http://evals.wustl.edu)