



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2025	Instructor Name:	Roxanne Morales
Course Title & #:	PSY 200 Biological Psychology	Email:	Roxanne.morales@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20794	Webpage (optional):	www.imperial.edu
Classroom:	Online Canvas	Office #:	203E
Class Dates:	February 10th- June 6th	Office Hours:	Mondays: 6p-8p via zoom/pronto Wednesdays: 5p-6p via zoom/pronto Thursdays: 1p-2p On-campus
Class Days:	TBD	Office Phone #:	760-355-6136
Class Times:	TBD	Emergency Contact:	Elvia Camillo 760-355-6144
Units:	3.0	Class Format/Modality:	Asynchronous Online

Course Description

An exploration of the biological basis of human behavior. The development, structure and functions of the nervous system is thoroughly examined to provide insight into its complex relationship with human behavior, thought, and feelings. The history of neuroscience and methods of scientific inquiry are reviewed. (C-ID: PSY 150) (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

PREREQUISITES: PSY 101.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- 1. Describe the action potential and how communication takes place between neurons.*
- 2. Critique current research in biopsychology including the ethical methodology and safeguards used in animal and human studies.*
- 3. Demonstrate an understanding of psychological theory regarding the relationship between physiology; cognition and emotion.*
- 4. Identify the biological and endocrine based causes of neurological and mental disorders.*

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. outline major events in the history of neuroscience and describe related advances in experimental methodology.*
- 2. list and describe the functions of the structures and organelles of the neuron and discuss synaptic transmission.*
- 3. identify the functional organization of the human nervous system and the structures which make up the functional subsystems including the role of neuroendocrine systems.*

4. *summarize the development of the vertebrate nervous system throughout the lifespan and identify problems that may result from delayed or impaired development.*
5. *identify and describe sensory structures and processes and discuss how the nervous system initiates and controls movement.*
6. *explain the physical regulation of homeostasis and discuss the effect of homeostatic drives on human behavior.*
7. *discuss circadian and other cyclical rhythms of the brain and resultant effects on human behavior.*
8. *describe the biological controls of emotions and explain the significance of emotions in human behavior and cognitive processes.*
9. *list and describe the major diseases of the nervous system and explain modern views on the bio/psycho/social nature of mental disorders.*
10. *relate current research findings on the biologic elements of human learning and memory.*
11. *explain scientific approaches used in methodologies for the study of brain-behavior relationships while being able to provide concrete examples of noninvasive vs. invasive research using current ethical principles and methods for the study of both humans and animals including research safe-guards and the peer review process in science.*

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required: Kalat, J.W. . 2023. Biological Psychology . 14th Cengage. ISBN: 978-0357798126.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course is an online course so we use Canvas and other online resources. Please make sure you have reliable internet service. Our campus provides several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your Campus Map for the Math Lab; Reading, Writing & Language Labs; and the Study Skills Center. There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to many other resources. All labs have working hours and you may need to access assignments outside these hours. Please make sure you have an updated and reliable computer (smartphones, tablets and iPads are not recommended). Your computer should have the updated software required to complete assignments. For further support, all active faculty, staff and students may log in to the system using their IVC email address and email password. The system is available online at <http://servicedesk.imperial.edu> (Links to an external site.). For more information regarding this please contact [Canvas Support Hotline: \(877\) 893-9853](tel:877-893-9853)

Available 24/7



Discussions: The instructor provides a thought-provoking question, case study, or scenario related to the course content. The Initial Response – Students write and submit their response, often requiring critical thinking, personal insights, and references to course materials. The Peer Interaction – Students reply to at least one or more classmates to build discussion, challenge ideas, or offer additional perspectives. The Evaluation Criteria – Responses are often graded based on depth of thought, engagement with peers, relevance to the topic, and writing quality.

Mid-Term and Final Exam: Exam will cover chapters and course material throughout the semester. The Midterm and Final exams are entirely multiple-choice. Some chapters listed may not be covered in class, but you are still responsible for the material, unless otherwise specified. No makeups for exams will be given without prior notification and/or documentation of an emergency.

Quizzes: Quizzes will Quizzes may include any or all of the following types of questions: multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer/essay. If you are late to class or absent, you will not be allowed to take the quizzes or exams. No makeups for exams or quizzes will be given without prior notification and/or documentation of an emergency. No work will be accepted over email without prior approval.

Research Paper: Students will research any culture of their choosing and discuss the significance of each psychosocial crisis stage within that culture as compared with Erikson's psychosocial crisis stages. Paper must be in APA format and at least 5 pages in length.

Students are expected to read all assigned chapters as noted in syllabus. Although, we may or may not cover all of the material shown and the dates are approximations, students will however be required to know all the material assigned in reading and other material given in class.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Discussions: 260 (13@20)	A 90%-100%
Quizzes/Concept Review 130 (13 @10 points)	B 80%-89%
Midterm:1@ 50 points	C 70%-79%
Research Paper: 1@ 50 points	D 60%-69%
Final: 100	F 50%-59%

To receive full credit, all work must be turned in on time. If you have an emergency which prevents you from participating in class, it is your responsibility to make acceptable arrangements prior to the absence. Class attendance and tardy policy follows the regulations in the IVC college catalog. Your attendance in class is important.



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with an online class may be sent to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty that can occur in an online environment:

- Copying from others on a quiz, test, examination, or assignment;
- Allowing someone else to copy your answers on a quiz, test, exam, or assignment;
- Having someone else take an exam or quiz for you;
- Conferring with others during a test or quiz (if the instructor didn't explicitly say it was a group project, then he/she expects you to do the work without conferring with others);
- Buying or using a term paper or research paper from an internet source or other company or taking any work of another, even with permission, and presenting the work as your own;
- Using AI Tools to complete coursework;
- Excessive revising or editing by others that substantially alters your final work;



- *Sharing information that allows other students an advantage on an exam (such as telling a peer what to expect on a make-up exam or prepping a student for a test in another section of the same class);*
- *Taking and using the words, work, or ideas of others and presenting any of these as your own work is plagiarism. This applies to all work generated by another, whether it be oral, written, or artistic work. Plagiarism may either be deliberate or unintentional.*

Other Course Information

- *Have access to tutoring services in the Study Skills Center as well as private study rooms for small study groups. There is more to our library than just books!*
- *[Career Services Center](#). [Links to an external site.](#) The Career Services Center is dedicated to serve all IVC students and Alumni. Services include Career Assessments, Resume and Cover Letter Assistance, Interview Preparation, Internship Opportunities and Job Placement.*

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

WEEK	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1	Orientation	Complete orientation including Orientation Discussion and Orientation Quiz
Week 2	Chapter 1. The Cellular Foundations of Behavior	Discussion 1 Quiz 1
Week 3	Chapter 2. Synapses	Discussion 2 Quiz 2
Week 4	Chapter 3. Anatomy and Research Methods	Discussion 3 Quiz 3
Week 5	Chapter 4. Genetics, Development, and Plasticity	Discussion 4 Quiz 4
Week 6	Chapter 5. Vision	Discussion 5 Quiz 5



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Week 7	Chapter 6. Hearing, the Mechanical Senses, and the Chemical Senses	Discussion 6 Quiz 6
Week 8	MIDTERM	Research Paper assigned
Week 9	Chapter 7. Movement	Discussion 7 Quiz 7
Week 10	Chapter 8. Wakefulness and Sleep	Discussion 8 Quiz 8
Week 11	Chapter 9. Internal Regulation	Discussion 9 Quiz 9
Week 12	Chapter 10. Reproductive Behaviors	Discussion 10 Quiz 10
Week 13	Chapter 11. Emotional Behaviors	Discussion 11 Quiz 11
Week 14	Chapter 12. Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Discussion 12 Quiz 12
Week 15	Chapter 13. Cognitive Functions	Discussion 13 Quiz 13 RESEARCH PAPER DUE
Week 16	FINAL	

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE
