

Ψ *BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY*

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| Course Title: | Biological Psychology |
| Course Number: | Psychology 200 |
| Semester Units: | 3 |
| Instructor: | Krista L. Byrd |
| Office: | Room 807 B |
| Office Hours: | Monday - Thursday 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.;; Wednesday 3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. |
| Phone: | (760) 355-6335 |
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| Required Text: | Kalat, James W. (2013). <i>Biological Psychology</i> , 11 th Edition, Wadsworth/Cengage Learning. |

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce you to the main theories and perspectives regarding biological psychology. This course examines biological psych from a scientific viewpoint as to how the various physiological systems of the body are related to behavior, cognition and emotion and how this affects everyday human functioning. Topics to be covered include Neurons and Neural Communication, Anatomy of the Nervous System, Plasticity of the Brain, The Five Senses, Movement, Sleep & Wakefulness, Internal Regulation, Reproduction, Emotions, Learning, Memory & Language, and Psychological Disorders.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are: **1)** To critically think about and gain knowledge of the main theories and concepts of physiological functioning; and **2)** To leave this course with a basic understanding of how these various physiological systems affect daily human behaviors, cognition and emotion.

Course Format:

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussion, assigned readings, videos, group and individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Class Participation. You are expected to attend class and stay for the whole period. You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the assigned reading by actively participating in class discussions. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get class notes from a fellow student. If you are going to miss a class, please call me **before** class to let me know. You may be dropped from class if you are absent consecutively for the equivalent of one week of instruction, but **DO NOT** count on the instructor dropping you. If you want to drop the class, it is your responsibility. **Please check your I.V.C. e-mail and/or Blackboard before class in case the instructor will not be attending class that day.**

Thought Papers. There will be three (3) thought papers due at various times during the semester. These are essays of 1-2 pages, which will be based on the readings and class material. **Late papers will not be accepted. I DO NOT accept thought papers by e-mail.** Thought papers should

address the following: **1)** A provocative or interesting idea regarding biological psychology from the text, class discussion, an article from the internet or magazine, and/or a television program, from your point of view. Don't provide a review of the reading/program, but your own thoughts regarding the topic. The main focus of thought papers is for you to **learn** to think critically about biological psych. The intention of the assignment is to get some ideas down and then begin exploring your ideas. You do not have to write what you think I would agree with or what is necessarily true, you just need to justify your ideas and statements with explanations.

Quizzes. Six (6) quizzes will be given during the semester. I will take the five (5) quizzes with the highest scores to determine your points. Since I will be throwing out the one lowest score for quizzes, **no make-up or late quizzes will be accepted.** Each quiz will be worth 10 points.

Assignments/Group Work. There will be approximately five (5) assignments given throughout the semester. More information will be given about these assignments at a later date. Each assignment will be worth 10 points.

Student Learning Outcome. In order to demonstrate your comprehension of biological psychology, you will be required to describe the action potential and how communication takes place between neurons. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3).

Exams. Four (4) exams will be given. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions from the textbook, lectures and videos. No make-up exams will be given unless you have called me **PRIOR** to the exam and let me know you will not be able to take the exam. If you contact me prior to the exam, you will have one week to make-up the exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points. **Please bring a #2 pencil and a scantron to each examination.**

Grading System:

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|-------------|---------------|----|----------|----------|-----------------|
| 90-100% = A | Exams | 4@ | 100 pts. | 400 pts. | |
| 80-89% = B | Quizzes | 5@ | 10 pts. | 50 pts. | |
| 70-79% = C | Projects | 3@ | 25 pts. | 75 pts. | |
| 60-69% = D | Assignments | 5@ | 10 pts. | 50 pts. | |
| 0-59% = F | Participation | | 25 pts. | 25 pts. | |
| | | | | | TOTAL: 600 pts. |

Special Accommodation:

Should a student enrolled in the course require a special accommodation due to a disability in order to complete the requirements of the course, please advise the instructor immediately or contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services at (760) 355-6312.

Academic Dishonesty:

Please read and understand this section fully. Academic dishonesty (cheating) of any type will not be tolerated in my classroom. If a student is caught committing any type of academic dishonesty he or she will be given a 0 for the assignment/exam and will be reported to Student Affairs for further handling of the matter. In addition, unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor, leaving during the class period or while watching a movie will be counted as an absence. If you get up and leave during class, please do not return. Coming in and out is disruptive to the other students as well as myself. Also, no cell phones should be answered during class or examinations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lecture Topic</u> | <u>Reading Assignment</u> |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 08/19/13 | Introduction to Class | |
| 08/21/13-08/26/13 | The Major Issues | Chapter 1 |
| 09/02/13 | HOLIDAY – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS | |
| 08/28/13-09/09/13 | Nerve Cells & Impulses | Chapter 2 |
| 09/11/13-09/18/13 | Synapses | Chapter 3 |
| 09/23/13 | EXAM #1 | |
| 09/25/13-09/30/13 | Anatomy of the Nervous System Thought Paper #1 Due | Chapter 4 |
| 10/02/13-10/07/13 | Development & Plasticity of the Brain | Chapter 5 |
| 10/09/13-10/14/13 | Vision & Other Sensory Systems | Chapters 6&7 |
| 10/16/13 | EXAM #2 | |
| 10/21/13-10/23/13 | Wakefulness & Sleep Thought Paper #2 Due | Chapter 9 |
| 10/28/13-10/30/13 | Internal Regulation | Chapter 10 |
| 11/04/13-11/06/13 | Reproductive Behaviors | Chapter 11 |
| 11/11/13 | HOLIDAY – VETERAN’S DAY – NO CLASS | |
| 11/13/13 | EXAM #3 | |
| 11/18/13-11/20/13 | Emotional Behaviors Thought Paper #3 Due | Chapter 12 |
| 11/25/13 | Learning, Memory & Cognition | Chapters 13 & 14 |
| 11/27/13-12/02/13 | Psychological Disorders | Chapter 15 |
| 12/04/13 | FINAL | |

This instructor reserves the right to make announced modifications to this course outline.