



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2024	Instructor Name:	Robert Wyatt
Course Title & #:	PSY 200: Biological Psychology	Email:	Robert.wyatt@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20318	Webpage (optional):	www.imperial.edu
Classroom:	411	Office #:	1714
Class Dates:	Feb. 12 – June 7th	Office Hours:	12:00 – 1:00 pm (Mon – Thurs.)
Class Days:	Mondays & Wednesdays	Office Phone #:	760 – 355 - 6491
Class Times:	8:00 – 9:25 am	Emergency Contact:	Alicia Arellano (760-355-6201)
Units:	3.0	Class Format/Modality:	In-Person

Course Description

An exploration of the biological basis of human behavior. The development, structure, and functions of the nervous system are 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.

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

Psychology 101

Student Learning Outcomes

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

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 biological 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 safeguards and the peer review process in science.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

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

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

While class attendance does not impact your grade, it is important to attend to grasp the concepts in the textbook.

Your overall grade will be influenced by participating in class discussions.

In addition, given the complexity of Biological Psychology, 5 tests will be administered throughout the semester. Each test will encompass 3 chapters, with the final exam covering 2 chapters.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

ASSIGNMENT	NUMBER	TOTAL POINTS
Tests	5	500
Class Discussions	14	140

Late assignments will only be accepted in cases of medical emergencies, or you have given me an ample amount of time. An ample amount of time is equivalent to at least 7 days.

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 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.

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

Date & Week	Topic	Tests & Notes
<i>Week 1</i> February 12 - 15	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1: Nerve Cells and Impulses	
<i>Week 2</i> February 19 - 22	Chapter 2: Synapses	NO Class on February 19
<i>Week 3</i> February 26 - 29	Chapter 3: Anatomy and Research Methods	Test 1 on February 29
<i>Week 4</i> March 04 - 07	Chapter 4: Genetics, Evolution, Development, & Plasticity	
<i>Week 5</i> March 11 - 14	Chapter 5: Vision	
<i>Week 6</i> March 18 - 21	Chapter 6: Other Sensory Systems	Test 2 on March 21
<i>Week 7</i> March 25 - 28	Chapter 7: Movement	
<i>Week 8</i> April 01 - 04	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
<i>Week 9</i> April 08 - 11	Chapter 8: Wakefulness and Sleep	
<i>Week 10</i> April 15 - 18	Chapter 9: Internal Regulation	Test 3 on April 18
<i>Week 11</i> April 22 - 25	Chapter 10: Reproductive Behaviors	
<i>Week 12</i> April 29 – May 2	Chapter 11: Emotional Behaviors	
<i>Week 13</i> May 06 – 09	Chapter 11: Emotional Behaviors	
<i>Week 14</i> May 13 – 16	Chapter 12: Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Test 4 on May 16
<i>Week 15</i> May 20 – 23	Chapter 13: Cognitive Functions	
<i>Week 16</i> May 27 – 30	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders	
<i>Week 17</i> June 03 – 06	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders	Test 5 on June 6

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