

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Nicole Rodiles
Course Title & #:	Biological Psy/Psy 200	Email:	nicole.rodiles@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20450	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	ONLINE	Office #:	203G
Class Dates:	8/11/25-12/5/25	Office Hours:	Wednesdays: ONLINE 11-12 Tuesdays ONLINE: 12-1pm
Class Days:	ONLINE	Office Phone #:	355-6142
Class Times:	ONLINE	Emergency Contact:	Todd: 760/960-3524
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Online

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. (CSU, UC)
Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

Prerequisite

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the action potential and how communication takes place between neurons. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3)
2. Critique current research in biopsychology, including the ethical methodology and safeguards used in animal and human studies.(ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5) Demonstrate an understanding of psychological theory regarding the relationship between physiology, cognition, and emotion. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3)
3. Identify the biological and endocrine-based causes of neurological and mental disorders. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this 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 integrates 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.
explain scientific approaches used in methodologies for the study of brain-behavior relationships while being
11. 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/e). Belmont, CA Wadsworth. ISBN: 978-0357798126

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Audio Visual, Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activity, Lecture, Simulation/Case Study.

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, assigned readings, classroom/ group work, individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

Participation. You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the assigned reading by actively participating in class discussions.

Research Assignments. You will be provided with and/or asked to conduct a literature search for various research articles that align with the various types of research designs discussed in your textbook.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

You will be provided with critical thinking questions in which to analyze and evaluate the article. Questions are to be answered in the following format: double-spaced, size 12 font, and 1 inch margins. Each research assignment will be worth 25 points. Late research assignments will be accepted up to one class period of the due date.

APA Research Paper Structure. You will produce a draft(s) of each component in an APA style research paper for practice purposes. We will discuss the structure for each section in class and use research articles and/or data to prepare for your final paper. The draft for each section will be worth 10 points. No drafts will be accepted after the Research Paper due date.

Research Paper

There will be a research paper due at the end of the semester in which you will work individually or with a partner to demonstrate your ability to design a research project, collect data, and write up the results of the research in the correct APA format. The paper will include a Title Page, an Abstract, an Introduction (literature review) of the research topic, a Method section, a Results section, a Discussion section, and a Reference page. Graphs, charts and figures can also be included. The paper will be worth 100 points. Late research papers will result in a loss of 10 points each day after the due date.

Research Presentation

We will have a poster session at the end of the semester. You will present your research study and results on a poster in the classroom. Students and guests will have a chance to read your research and ask questions or make comments. We will go over the procedures for making a poster in class. The poster and presentation will be worth 50 points.

Chapter Outlines/Quizzes

For each chapter of your text, unless otherwise noted, you will be asked to produce a typed outline. This outline should include the main points of each chapter. Each class period that we start a new chapter, I will be giving a quiz on that chapter in class. You will be allowed to use your chapter outline while taking the quiz. Thus, it is up to you to produce a detailed outline of the chapter that will assist you in taking the quiz. After you take the quiz, we will grade the quiz in



class and I will give you points for both the outline and the quiz. Since I will be throwing out the one lowest score for quizzes, no make-up quizzes will be given. Each outline will be worth 20 points. Each quiz will be worth 20 points.

Exams

Four (2) exams will be given. Exams could consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions from the class material. 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.

students' viewpoints and opinions in regard to the major developmental theories. Research paper on a developmental

psychology topic. Written paper about the developmental stages of the student.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

CORE CONTENT APPROX. % OF COURSE

Reading and Writing

- Reading assignments include assigned text readings; current articles and/or sources from the internet. Students give written and/or verbal critical analysis of the readings. Written assignments include reflective responses, sharing the students' viewpoints and opinions in regard to the major theories of cognition. An APA style literature review will be completed in regard to a topic of the students' choosing.
- Chapter Outlines/Quizzes. For each chapter of your text, unless otherwise noted, you will be asked to produce a typed outline. This outline should include the main points of each chapter. Each class period that we start a new chapter, I will be giving a quiz on that chapter in class. You will be allowed to use your chapter outline while taking the quiz. Thus, it is up to you to produce a detailed outline of the chapter that will assist you in taking the quiz. After you take the quiz, we will grade the quiz in class and I will give you points for both the outline and the quiz. Since I will be throwing out the one lowest score for quizzes, no make-up quizzes will be given. Each outline will be worth 20 points. Each quiz will be worth 20 points.
- Exams. Four (4) exams will be given. Exams could consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions from the class material. 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.



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

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.
- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.
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Other Course Information

[Optionally, include other necessary information.]



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

[Provide a tentative overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course. A table format as in the example below may be used for this purpose.]

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 August 11	Introduction to Class Chapter 1	
Week 2 August 18	Chapter 1 Cont Chapter 2	
Week 3 August 25	Chapter 3 Exam 1 Thought Paper 1	
Week 4 September 1	Chapter 4	
Week 5 September 8	Chapter 5	
Week 6 September 15	Chapter 6 Exam 2 Thought Paper 2	
Week 7 September 22	Chapter 7	
Week 8 September 29	Chapter 8	
Week 9 October 6	Chapter 9	
Week 10 October 13	Chapter 10 Exam 3	
Week 11 October 20	Chapter 11	
Week 12 October 27	Chapter 12	



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 13 November 3	Chapter 13	
Week 14 November 10	Chapter 13	
Week 15 November 17	Chapter 14	
Fall Break	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Week 16 December 5	Chapter 14 Final Exam	

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