

PSY 308, Biopsychology, Spring 2010

Juan M. Dominguez

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 11:00- 12:30 PM, or by appt.

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Teaching assistant:

- Mitzi Gonzales, e-mail: mitzi2020@gmail.com, office hours will be announced during the first week of class.

Text/ Readings:

- **Biological Psychology, 10th Edition (required)**

By James W. Kalat

- **Study Guide for Biological Psychology (optional)**

By Elaine M. Hull and Juan M. Dominguez

- **Additional readings (e.g. assigned articles, online assignments, etc).** These will be assigned throughout the semester.

NOTE: You will have access to grades, assigned articles, and additional information via the Blackboard website. Please make certain that your Blackboard account is active and that you are familiar with navigating in it.

Class meetings: *Tues & Thu, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, room NOA 1.124*

Topics (Presented in approximate order of discussion. We may or may not cover all topics).

1. Introduction
2. The Major Issues (Chapter 1)
3. Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses (Chapter 2)
4. Synapses (Chapter 3)
5. Anatomy of the Nervous System (Chapter 4)
- 6. Exam 1**
7. Development and Plasticity of the Brain (Chapter 5)
8. Vision (Chapters 6)
9. The Other Sensory Systems (Chapter 7)
10. Movement (Chapter 8)
- 11. Exam 2**
12. Wakefulness and Sleep (Chapter 9)
13. Internal Regulation (Chapter 10)
14. Reproductive Behaviors (Chapter 11)
15. Emotional Behaviors (Chapter 12)
- 16. Exam 3**
17. The Biology of Learning and Memory (Chapter 13)
18. Cognitive Functions (Chapter 14)
19. Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia (Chapters 15)
20. Possible additional Topics
- 21. Exam 4**

EXAM DATES: *Dates are 2/11 for Exam I, 3/11 for Exam II, 4/15 for Exam III, and 5/6 for Exam IV. If these dates change, I will make an in class announcement.*

COURSE OBJECTIVE: When finished with this course, you will have a greater understanding of how the brain regulates behavior and its associated disorders. Additionally, you will be familiar with recent advancements in the field of behavioral neuroscience.

FORMAT: A lecture and discussion format will be employed to explore these topics. Attendance to all classes is expected.

REQUIREMENTS:

Your performance on four exams, several assignments and quizzes will determine your grade. No make up exams or quizzes will be administered, unless there is a documented emergency.

1. Exams (total 80% of final grade):

Four multiple choice/short answer exams will be administered during the semester and an optional-cumulative final. Exam grades will total 80% of your final grade. All exams will be administered in class. No make-up exams will be administered, unless there is a documented emergency.

If you choose to take the final exam, you're welcome to come into the classroom, look at the exam, and take the exam; but once you hand it in, it will replace your lowest grade (even if the new grade for your final is lower). There will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS, unless there is a documented emergency. You are required to bring a picture ID to show when submitting an exam.

2. Quizzes and assignments (total 20% of final grade):

Unannounced quizzes and assignments will be administered. The grades you earn in these will count towards 20% of your final grade. Quizzes will be brief (generally 5 to 10 min), but may be given anytime during class. No make-up quizzes or assignments will be administered.

Feel free to visit during office hrs or make an appt. if you need additional help.

Grading policy:

-No make-up exams and no extra credit assignments

-Exam I 20 points

-Exam II 20 points

-Exam III 20 points

-Exam IV 20 points

-Quizzes & Assignments 20 points

-Total 100 points

Total points earned will determine your final grade, using the following distribution:

93-100 =	A
90-92 =	A-
87-89 =	B+
83-86 =	B
80-82 =	B-
77-79 =	C+
73-76 =	C
70-72 =	C-
67-69 =	D+
63-66 =	D
60-62 =	D-
< 60 =	F

Note: Though not foreseeable, any changes or deviations from this syllabus (e.g. order in which topics are covered) will be announced in class.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to uphold the Student Standard of Conduct published in the University of Texas website (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php), section 11-801. Generally, do not plagiarize, do not collaborate with colleagues when doing work that should be your own, do not cheat on exams, and do not submit work as your own that was obtained or purchased from someone else.

Disability services: If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. In addition to the resources of the department, a wide range of services are available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.