

## SYLLABUS

PSY308 Biopsychology  
Spring 2010  
Unique: 43790

Time: MWF 10-11 AM  
Location: NOA 1.126

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### **Content**

This course is an introduction to the biological basis of psychological processes and behavior. We will first cover the basic foundations of the nervous system, such as anatomy and physiology. Then, we will study how the nervous system underlies our perception, motor skills, basic needs such as eating and sleeping, emotions, memory and many basic behaviors involved in daily life. We will also talk about various brain disorders. This course also covers other basic concepts, findings and research in the field of Biopsychology.

### **Textbook**

Biological Psychology by James Kalat

### **Grading Policy**

The course grade will be based on four examinations, each covering about one-fourth of the course material and a cumulative final examination. The exams will include material from lectures, readings, and points brought up in discussion during class. Each test will consist of multiple choice and short answers. The best 4 out of 5 grades will be used in calculating the course grade, in which each exam grade will count 25% towards to the final course grade. Thus, you have the option of not taking one of the four tests during the semester or the final test. There

are no make-up tests unless you have a written doctor's or coach's note. Letter grade cutoffs are as following:

93-100	=	A
90-92.9	=	A-
87-89.9	=	B+
83-86.9	=	B
80-82.9	=	B-
77-79.9	=	C+
73-76.9	=	C
70-72.9	=	C-
67-69.9	=	D+
63-66.9	=	D
60-62.9	=	D-
< 60	=	F

### **Prerequisites**

PSY301 with a C or better

### **Special Needs**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To determine if you qualify, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. If they certify your needs, I will work with you to make appropriate arrangements.

### **University policy**

Please read the policy listed in your Blackboard.

### **My assumption**

- A. I use Blackboard to distribute course materials, to communicate, and to post grades. In particular, I will post the PowerPoint lecture material 24 hours prior to each lecture. It is expected that you bring it to the class to take notes. If you are not familiar with the use of Blackboard, please go to the HELP desk located in the Flawn Academic Center.
- B. Use of E-mail is the University's official correspondence. Thus, you are encouraged to check your e-mail at least twice a week. I will periodically communicate with you via e-mail.
- C. I will not take attendance, but you are responsible for the materials that we talk about in the class.
- D. Use of a laptop is permitted as long as it is not disruptive to the class. However, I hold the right to regulate the use of laptops at anytime during the lecture.

## Course outline

The following schedule is only approximate, and subject to change during the semester.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Unit 1: Foundations</b>		
Jan 20, 22	Introduction to Biopsychology	Chapter 1
Jan 25, 27, 29	The anatomy of the nervous system	Chapter 4
Feb 1, 3, 5	Neural physiology	Chapters 2,3
Feb 8, 10	Drug actions on the nervous system	Chapter 3
<i>Feb 12</i>	<i>TEST 1</i>	
<b>Unit 2: Sensory and Motor Systems</b>		
Feb 15, 17, 19	Visual system	Chapter 6
Feb 22, 24, 26	Auditory, chemical, & somatosensory systems	Chapter 7
Mar 1, 3, 5	Motor system	Chapter 8
<i>Mar 8</i>	<i>TEST 2</i>	
<b>Unit 3: Innate Behaviors and Cognition</b>		
Mar 10, 12	Ingestive behavior	Chapter 10
Mar 22, 24, 26	Reproductive behavior	Chapter 11
Mar 29, 31 Apr 2	Sleep and dreaming	Chapter 9
April 5, 7, 9	Learning and memory	Chapter 13
<i>Apr 12</i>	<i>TEST 3</i>	
<b>Unit 4: Plasticity and Disorders</b>		
Apr 14, 16, 19	Neural plasticity and brain damage	Chapter 5
Apr 21, 23	Cognitive functions	Chapter 14
Apr 26, 28	Stress and emotion	Chapter 12
Apr 30, May 3, 5	Mental disorders	Chapter 15
<i>May 7</i>	<i>TEST 4</i>	
	<i>FINAL EXAM</i>	