

PSYCHOLOGY 260
BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
FALL 2008
T/TH 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Thomas
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Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to the fundamentals of brain action and behavior. The 1990s marked the Decade of the Brain and we are now in the Decade of Behavior; thus, we are at a unique period of rapid growth in our understanding of the biological basis of behavior. The course will begin by examining the basic functioning of the nervous system and neuroanatomy, followed by the biological bases of our sensations, movements and more "primitive" behaviors. Later, we will explore how our brains give rise to more complex behaviors, including our emotions, language, dreams and self-awareness, and how drugs, brain disease, and damage can alter one's personality, indeed, one's self. Hopefully, this course will leave you with a new perspective on the definition and substance of "mind".

Readings

Required Text: Biological Psychology (9th edition) by Kalat
Optional: Study Guide for Kalat's Biological Psychology, Elaine M. Hull

The Kalat text provides an overview of important concepts within the study of biological psychology. However, the lectures will expand on these concepts and often cover material not discussed in your text, so it is imperative that you attend class and that you prepare **before** class by reading the assigned chapters. This will facilitate your understanding of the material and will also help to stimulate class discussion. I will also provide handouts, assignments, and weblinks periodically throughout the semester.

Resources

Website: <http://blackboard.sdsu.edu>
This class has a website on Blackboard that contains the syllabus, announcements, weblinks, handouts and additional study materials. There is also an associated web system, ThomsonNOW, which has additional

information, animations and test quizzes. The weblink to ThomsonNOW (<http://www.ilrn.com>) is available from the Blackboard web page, but requires a separate login name and password.

CD: The Kalat text provides a CD-ROM as a supplement to the text and to assist with studying.

Information: **Please check the website once a week for announcements.** Also, please feel free to set up meeting times with me if you are having difficulty with concepts.

Course Evaluation

Grade Scale: 90-100% = A 80-90% = B 70-80% = C 60-70% = D <60% = F

Grade Percentage: 75% - 3 Exams 25% - Quizzes

Exams & Quizzes: Your course grade will be based on 3 exams (2 midterms and a final) and 5 quizzes. Six quizzes will be administered periodically. You will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz score; the average of the other five quizzes will constitute your total quiz grade. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade and your quiz composite will be worth 25% of your grade. Exams and quizzes will include a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. No make-up exams will be given except in the unusual case of a doctor-treated illness or serious family emergency. There will be no make-up quizzes. Quizzes will be held at the beginning of class, so if you are late, you will have less time to complete the quiz. You will need to purchase and bring **F289 Scantrons** to class on testing days. Finally, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in your expulsion from the university.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Week 1	Sept. 2/4	Intro to course Issues of Mind/Brain Historical Issues	Chap. 1
Week 2	Sept. 9/11	Anatomy of a neuron Resting Potential Action Potential	Chap. 2
Week 3	Sept. 16/18	Synaptic Communication Drugs and Behavior QUIZ (Tues. Sept. 16)	Chap. 3
Week 4	Sept. 23/25	Neuroanatomy General structure/function QUIZ (Thurs., Sept. 25)	Chap. 4
Week 5	Sept. 30 Oct. 2	Exam #1 Vision	Chap. 6
Week 6	Oct. 7/9	Vision (cont) Audition	Chap. 6 Chap. 7
Week 7	Oct. 14/16	Taste Somatosensation QUIZ (Thurs, Oct. 16)	Chap. 7
Week 8	Oct. 21/23	Movement Movement Disorders	Chap. 8
Week 9	Oct. 28/30	Sleeping and Dreaming Sex QUIZ (Thurs. Oct. 30)	Chap. 9 Chap. 11
Week 10	Nov. 4 Nov. 6	Sex (cont) Exam #2	Chap. 11
Week 11	Nov. 11/13	Emotional Behavior Stress	Chap 12
Week 12	Nov. 18/20	Neurobiology of Learning & Memory QUIZ (Thurs. Nov. 20)	Chap 13
Week 13	Nov. 25	Neurobiology of Learning & Memory (cont)	

**THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOV. 27 NO CLASS
HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY!**

Week 14	Dec. 2/4	Lateralization & Language Split Brain	Chap 14
Week 15	Dec. 9/11	Neurobiology of Psychopathology QUIZ (Tues., Dec.9)	Chap 15

FINAL EXAM Tuesday Dec. 16 at 10:30 am