

PSYCHOLOGY 260
BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
FALL 2009
T/TH 5:30-6:45

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 test and quiz days.

Class Policies

Even though this is a large class, to be fair to your classmates, common courtesies are required. Once you leave the classroom, you should not return, so bathroom breaks should be taken before or after class. If you need to leave class early for a valid reason, you should let me know at the beginning of class and sit next to the exit.

Cell phones are not permitted and should remain off and in your bag during the duration of the class. Failure to abide by this rule may lead to your removal from the class.

Finally, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in your expulsion from the university.

Important Information about the Impact of the Mandated Faculty and Staff Furlough at SDSU

The devastating California state budget cuts prohibit faculty and staff at SDSU from working on two days per month during the 2009/10 academic year.

The faculty furlough prohibits faculty members from teaching, being on campus, doing research, and consulting with students on two days per month. Faculty furlough days vary from faculty to faculty. My furlough days are the following: Sept. 11, 18; Oct. 2, 9; Nov. 13, 20; Dec. 11, 18. On those days, classes and office hours are cancelled and telephone and e-mail messages will not be answered.

The staff furlough causes most University, College, and Department Offices to close on the following days: Sept 11, 18; Oct 2, 16; Nov 13, 25; Dec 21, 22, 23, 24.

To avoid faculty and staff furloughs at SDSU in the future, please contact your legislators in Sacramento so that they better understand how cutting the state budget for higher education affects your education and your future.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Week 1	Sept. 1/3	Intro to course Issues of Mind/Brain Historical Issues	Chap. 1
Week 2	Sept. 8/10	Anatomy of a neuron Resting Potential Action Potential	Chap. 2
Week 3	Sept. 15/17	Synaptic Communication Drugs and Behavior QUIZ (Tues. Sept. 15)	Chap. 3
Week 4	Sept. 22/24	Neuroanatomy General structure/function QUIZ (Thurs., Sept. 24)	Chap. 4
Week 5	Sept. 29 Oct. 1	Exam #1 Vision	Chap. 6
Week 6	Oct. 6/8	Vision (cont) Audition	Chap. 6 Chap. 7
Week 7	Oct. 13/15	Taste Somatosensation QUIZ (Thurs, Oct. 15)	Chap. 7
Week 8	Oct. 20/22	Movement Movement Disorders	Chap. 8
Week 9	Oct. 27/29	Sleeping and Dreaming Sex QUIZ (Thurs. Oct. 29)	Chap. 9 Chap. 11
Week 10	Nov. 3 Nov. 5	Sex (cont) Exam #2	Chap. 11
Week 11	Nov. 10/12	Emotional Behavior Stress	Chap 12
Week 12	Nov. 17/19	Neurobiology of Learning & Memory QUIZ (Thurs. Nov. 19)	Chap 13
Week 13	Nov. 24	Neurobiology of Learning & Memory (cont)	

**THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOV. 26 NO CLASS
HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY!**

Week 14	Dec. 1/3	Lateralization & Language Split Brain	Chap 14
Week 15	Dec. 8/10	Neurobiology of Psychopathology QUIZ (Tues., Dec.8)	Chap 15

FINAL EXAM The final exam is currently scheduled for Saturday Dec. 19 at 10:30 am. I will try to re-schedule this at an earlier time during finals week. This will be announced in class and on the website.