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SCN 260N.01: Biology of Behavior

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SCN260N: *Biology of Behavior*

Fall 2013

Instructor: Greg Peters

Contact: greg.peters@mso.umt.edu or (406) 207-6154

Office Hours: M - Th 11:45 -12:30 in HB 02

Required Resources: Carlson. *Physiology of Behavior*, 11th ed.
Subscription to MyPsychKit.com

Recommended text: Doweiko, *Concepts of Chemical Dependency*, 8th ed.

Course Overview:

This course explores the physiologic basis of human behavior. Our exploration will focus on the structure and function of the nervous system and its cells, the neurons. We will examine neuron function and neurotransmitter activity in detail. Topics related to human behavior include the remarkable diversity of information we gather through sensation, the phenomenon of learning, and the physiologic basis of behaviors such as obesity, anorexia, stress, and anxiety. Particular attention will be paid to the nature and activity of commonly abused addictive drugs.

Assessment:	points	grades
4 Exams (100 pts ea.)	400	90-100% = A- to A
8 Lab Reports (25 pts ea.)	200	80-90% = B- to B+
		70-80% = C- to C+
		60-70% = D- to D+
		< 60% = F
TOTAL:	<u>600</u>	

Course Policies & Recommendations:

The two most important things you can do to get the most out of this course are to keep up with the reading and commit to regular attendance in class. The reading suggestions from the optional text (Doweiko) are listed in [brackets] in the class schedule.

You will be expected to work on your own while taking exams and submit lab reports representing your own work.

Ask questions!

Use of the Moodle course supplement is essential, as it provides the following resources:

- Course documents, such as the syllabus & instructions for writing lab reports
- Portions of lecture slides used in class
- "Reading companions" designed to help guide your work with our text
- Grades
- Lab instructions, links to Lab activities, and links to submit assignments online

Make-up exams will only be offered for compelling reasons and with documentation. No early finals will be offered, so make any travel plans accordingly.

Students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations. Please contact your instructor and provide a letter from your DSS coordinator so that accommodations can be made.

University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be observed in this course. After the 45th day of the semester, such changes are not automatically approved; they may be requested by petition and must be accompanied by documentation of extenuating circumstances. Requests to drop a course or change the grade basis to benefit grade point average will not be approved. A C or higher is a passing grade for the P/NP option.

Course Schedule

Date:	Lecture Topic:	Reading pages:	Begin Lab	Assignment due:
Unit One: The Nervous System				
8/27	Course introduction	--	Lab Policies	
8/29	Nervous system cells	Ch. 2 (28-40)	MyPsychKit intro	
9/3	Neuron activity	Ch. 2 (41-51)	Lab 1	
9/5	Neuron communication	Ch. 2 (51-64)		
9/10	Nervous System features	Ch. 3 (67-73)	Lab 2	Lab report 1
9/12	Nervous System structure	Ch. 3 (80-97)		
9/17	Neurotransmitters	Ch. 4 (106-121)	Exam 1 prep	Lab report 2
9/19	EXAM 1	--		
Unit Two: Sensation and Movement				
9/24	Sensation	Ch. 6 (165-173)	Exam 1 review	
9/26	Vision	Ch. 6 (173-180)	Lab 3	
10/1	Audition & Vestibular senses	Ch. 7 (208-30)		
10/3	Somatosenses	Ch. 7 (231-235)	Lab 4	Lab report 3
10/8	Taste and olfaction	Ch. 7 (243-253)		
10/10	Control of movement	Ch. 8 (256-261)	Exam 2 prep	Lab report 4
10/15	EXAM 2	--		
Unit Three: Influences on Behavior				
10/17	Emotions	360-71, 388-91	Exam 2 review	
10/22	Learning	Ch. 13 (435-448)	Lab 5	
10/24	Sleep & Food	289-93; 299-303; 403-9; 421-31		
10/29	Neurological disorders	Ch. 15 (528-540)	Lab 6	Lab Report 5
10/31	Anxiety, Stress, CNS health	Ch. 17 (586-612)		
11/5	Drug action	Ch. 4 (100-105)	Exam 3 prep	Lab report 6
11/7	EXAM 3	--		
Unit Four: Drugs and Addiction				
11/12	Addiction	Ch. 18 (615-641)	Exam 3 Review	
11/14	Alcohol	631-633 [D 4&5]	Lab 7	
11/19	Barbiturates, CNS stimulants	[D 6 - 8]		
11/21	Cocaine, Marijuana	626-7, 633-5 [D 9&10]	Lab 8	Lab report 7
11/26	Drugs in our lives			
11/28	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</i>			
12/3	Opioids, Hallucinogens	625-6 [D 11&12]		
12/5	Steroids, OTC drugs	[D 14 -15]	Exam 4 prep	Lab report 8
12/13	EXAM 4: Friday, 10:10-12:10, same room			