9-2014

PSYX 250N.01: Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

Stuart Hall
University of Montana - Missoula, stuart.hall@umontana.edu

Psyx 250 – Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

Fall 2014

Course Location and Time

SS 352
Tuesday and Thursday 11:10 – 12:30

Instruction Information

Instructor: Stuart Hall, Ph.D.
Email: stuart.hall@umontana.edu
Office: Skaggs 207
Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30, and by appointment

Required Text

Kalat, James W. (2013) *Biological Psychology* –11th ed. eBook

Course Guidelines and Policies

Drop Date

November 13 (46th instructional day) is the last day to drop or add a class.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Learn the different cells that compose the central nervous system (CNS).
2. Understand how electrical and chemical events cause neurons to influence the activity of one another.
3. Learn the basic anatomy of the CNS.
4. Gain familiarity with some techniques to study the CNS.
5. Learn the anatomy and physiology of the sensory and motor systems.
6. Gain familiarity with the anatomy and physiology of complex behaviors such as sleep, anxiety, reinforcement, memory and language.

Tests/Grades

Grades will be based on the 3 best test scores (equally weighted). Each test will be worth 50 points; therefore, the final grade will be based on a possible total of 150 points (150-135 points = A, 134-120 points = B, 119-105 points = C, 104-90 points = D, 89 points and below = F).

Test 1 covers section 1 lectures and chapters 2, 3, and 4. Test 2 covers section 2 lectures and chapters 6, 7, and 8. Test 3 covers section 3 lectures and chapters 9, 12, and 14. Test 4 is an optional comprehensive final exam. The format for all tests will be 50 multiple-choice questions. A plus/minus grading system will not be used.

Make-up Policy

The final exam is optional; grades are based on the 3 best scores. If you have to miss a scheduled exam, the final will serve as the make-up for the missed text. The final can also be used to substitute for a score on an earlier exam.

Lectures and Reading Assignments

You will be responsible for all information from the lectures as well as the text—including material in the reading assignments not covered in class. Regular attendance is critical. Please be sure to keep up with your reading and attend lectures. Important announcements will be made throughout classes.

Course Schedule

Section	Topics, Readings, Exams	Details
SECTION 1		
	Topics	Neurons and Glia, Resting Potential, Action Potential, Synaptic Transmission, Drugs, Neuroanatomy, Research Methods
	Readings	Chapters 2, 3, and 4
	TEST 1: October 1	
SECTION 2		
	Topics	Visual System, Auditory System, Somatosensory System, Movement
	Readings	Chapters 6, 7 (modules 7.1 and 7.2) and 8
	TEST 2: October 29	
SECTION 3		
	Topics	Sleep, Reinforcement, Anxiety and Aggression, Learning and Memory, Lateralization of Function, Language
	Readings	Chapters 9, 12, 13 and 14
	TEST 3: December 5	
	FINAL EXAM: December 9	
	10:10 – 12:10	