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SCN 260N.01: The Biology of Behavior

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SCN260N: *Biology of Behavior*

Spring 2015

Instructor: Greg Peters

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

Office Hours: T & Th 10:00 -12:00 in HB 02

Resources: Carlson. *Physiology of Behavior*, 11th ed. Pearson Publishing
Subscription to MyPsychLab.com is required

Course Overview:

In this course we explore the physiologic basis of human behavior. The foundation for this exploration is an understanding of 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, addiction, stress, and anxiety.

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+
Practice questions (highest 20/21 @ 5 pts ea.)	100	70-80% = C- to C+
	<hr/>	60-70% = D- to D+
TOTAL:	700	< 60% = F

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. Ask questions!

All but the first day of each class unit will begin with short practice questions. You may correct your responses during class for full credit. One practice question is a freebie and can be missed without affecting your grade.

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

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. 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				
1/27	Course introduction	--	MyPsychLab intro	
1/29	Nervous system cells	Ch. 2 (28-40)		
2/3	Neuron activity	Ch. 2 (41-51)	Lab 1: Neurons	
2/5	Neuron communication	Ch. 2 (51-64)		
2/10	Neurotransmitters	Ch. 4 (106-121)	Lab 2: Neurotransmitters	Lab report 1
2/12	Nervous system features	Ch. 3 (67-73)		
2/17	Nervous System structure	Ch. 3 (80-97)		Lab report 2
2/19	EXAM 1	--		
Unit Two: Sensation and movement				
2/24	Sensation	Ch. 6 (165-173)		
2/26	Vision	Ch. 6 (173-180)	Lab 3: Vision, Audition	
3/3	Audition & Vestibular senses	Ch. 7 (208-23, 227-30)		
3/5	Somatosenses	Ch. 7 (231-235)	Lab 4: More senses	Lab report 3
3/10	Taste and olfaction	Ch. 7 (243-253)		
3/12	Control of movement	Ch. 8 (256-261)		Lab report 4
3/17	EXAM 2	--		
Unit Three: Influences on Behavior				
3/19	Emotions	Ch. 11 (360-71, 388-91)		
3/24	Learning	Ch. 13 (435-443)	Lab 5: Emotion & Learning	
3/26	Learning	Ch. 13 (443-448)		
3/30 – 4/3	<i>Spring break</i>			
4/7	Sleep	9 (289-93; 299-303)	Lab 6: Sleep, Food, Drugs	Lab report 5
4/9	Food	Ch. 12 (403-409)		
4/14	Drug action	Ch. 4 (100-105)		Lab report 6
4/16	EXAM 3	--		
Unit Four: Diversity of Behavior				
4/21	Addiction	Ch. 18 (615-623)		
4/23	Addiction	Ch. 18 (624-641)	Lab 7: Addiction	
4/28	Obesity, Anorexia, Insomnia	12 & 9 (421-31; 294-8)		
4/30	Neurological disorders	Ch. 15 (528-540)	Lab 8: Stress & Anxiety	Lab report 7
5/5	Anxiety & Stress	Ch. 17 (586-612)		
5/7	Neurological health	--		Lab report 8
5/12	EXAM 4: Tuesday, 8:00 - 10:00am, same room			