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PSYX 250N.02: Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

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Syllabus – PSYX 250N – Spring 2016

Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

Meeting Location and Time

Health Sciences 207

Tuesday, Thursday 9:40 – 11 am

Instruction Information

Instructor: Oak Reed

Email: oakleigh.reed@umontana.edu

Office: Skaggs 360

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday 9 - 10:30; or by appointment

Required Text

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

Course Guidelines and Policies

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. Please visit me at the beginning of the course, preferably before or after class or during my office hours, to develop a plan.

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](#).

Incompletes

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Exiting Gracefully

Instructor permission is required to drop this course once the 15th day of instruction has passed.

Technology

Please turn off all cell phones and other technology prior to class starting. Texting will not be prohibited and you will be asked to leave the class, as it is distracting for all. If you choose to take notes with a laptop, please sit in the back few rows of the classroom to not distract your fellow classmates. Resist the temptation to surf the Internet, do other homework, or play games!

Course Goals and Objectives

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

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. Important announcements regarding exam content will be made throughout classes – you won’t want to miss these tips! Overall, this class is generally considered to be fairly challenging and we will move swiftly through the material, so please be sure to keep up with your readings and try to attend all lectures.

Exams/Grades

There will be 4 exams during this course, but your grade will be based on your 3 best exam scores. Each exam will be worth 50 points and will follow the format of 50 multiple-choice questions. The fourth exam is an **optional comprehensive final exam**. This exam may be used to substitute a score for an earlier exam if the score exceeds your lowest standing score. At the end of the semester, I will go through and drop your lowest score, so be mindful that throughout the semester your grade may not perfectly reflect your final grade. To further ease your mind, note that the grading scale below is fairly liberal, so achieving your goal grade is not impossible! Always feel free to visit me during my office hours (or make an appointment) to review past exams or to talk about the outlook of your final grade.

Grading Scale	
A	89 – 100%
B	79 – 88%
C	69 – 78%
D	59 – 68%
F	0 – 58%

Example grade scenario: Exam 1 = 68%, Exam 2 = 80%, Exam 3 = 92% → Total score = 80% (B). If Exam 4 > 68%, then I would drop Exam 1 and you would have a chance at getting an A if your final exam was 95% or higher!

Make-up Policy

Make-up exams are not permitted unless a doctor’s note for illness of some other formal documentation on an emergency is provided. In addition, you must contact me via email **prior to the exam** to notify me of your absence. As a note, if a situation arises that prevents you from attending the exam that would not be excused by the aforementioned scenarios (e.g., oversleeping, car troubles, etc.), leading you to get a “0” for that exam, you could take the final exam to replace that score.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week / Day	Chapters / Lecture Topics
Week 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 26 • January 28 	Chapter 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction & Syllabus • Neurons, Glia & Blood-Brain Barrier
Week 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2 • February 4 	Chapter 1 & 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resting & Action Potential • Synaptic Transmission
Week 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 9 • February 11 	Chapter 2 & 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs • Neuroanatomy
Week 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 16 • February 18 	Chapter 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuroanatomy • Neuroanatomy
Week 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 23 • February 25 	Chapter 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Methods • Catch-up & Review
Week 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 1 • March 3 	Chapter 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM 1 • Audition
Week 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 8 • March 10 	Chapter 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • Vision
Week 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 15 • March 17 	Chapters 5 & 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somatosensory System • Movement
Week 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 22 • March 24 	Chapter 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement • Catch-up & Review
Week 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 29 • March 31 	Chapter 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM 2 • Sleep
Week 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 5 • April 7 	SPRING BREAK!
Week 12	Chapter 8 & 11

Week / Day	Chapters / Lecture Topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 12 • April 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep • Reinforcement, Anxiety & Aggression
Week 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 19 • April 21 	Chapter 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning & Memory • Learning & Memory
Week 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 26 • April 28 	Chapter 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lateralization & Language • Catch-up & Review
Week 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 3 • May 5 	Chapters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM 3 • Optional Final Exam Review
Week 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA 	FINAL EXAM