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PSYC 270N.01: Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

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The University of Montana

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Current Location: Course Information



Syllabus

Psychology 270 Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

Meeting Times: MWF 1:00 to 2:00

Place: Gallagher Business Building

Instructor: David Strobel

Office: Lommasson Center 224 (Graduate School in Griz Central)

Phone: 243-2572

e-mail: magnum@selway.umt.edu

Course Goals: The primary goal is to introduce undergraduate students to the relationships between biological structures and mechanism, and their corresponding psychological processes and events. Biological Psychologists try to explain behavior in terms of the underlying physical chemical mechanisms (physiological explanations); the development of underlying structures or processes (ontogenetic explanations); the adaptation history of the species (evolutionary explanation); and in terms of the reasons why a structure or process developed (functional explanation).

Additional Goals and Values: The course fulfills a general education natural science (perspective 6) requirement. Thus, in addition to the primary goal, the course will provide examples of scientific inquiry and validation of findings. Students will be encouraged to analyze issues using the most powerful tool known to humans (the scientific method); assembling relevant information, reaching a conclusion, applying the conclusion, satisfying intellectual curiosity, and generating new intellectual curiosity.

Grading: 6 quizzes worth 25 points each will be given. The total points earned from the best 5 quizzes (125 points) will be added to the total points earned from the final exam (worth 100 points), and 25 points from homework assignments. Your final letter grade will be based on a curve from the distribution of total points earned (250). All quizzes will be multiple choice and each question will be worth 1 point.

Makeup Tests: Because the final grade only uses 5 out of 6 quizzes, you may miss one quiz for whatever reason, but this will be the quiz that is eliminated for computing total points. If you miss a second quiz or the final exam, you must notify the instructor and provide a legitimate reason for missing the test. Makeup tests will be essay questions.

Accommodation for Disabilities: Students with disabilities are invited to request and arrange accommodations in the classroom or testing situations as recommended by the Office of Disability Services for Students, by contacting their instructor (prior to testing or instruction). For more information please contact Disability Services for Students (DSS), Corbin Hall 032, (X2243).

Attendance: Class attendance has been mandated by the Faculty Senate. Students are warned that periodic sampling will take place to monitor attendance and points may be deducted from your total score if failure to attend becomes problematic.