

Biological Psychology

“While we live, our bodies are the only means of expressing our souls. Even prayer requires a brain.”

Anonymous

Spring, 2006

TTh 9:30-10:45

Instructor: Bret Roark, Ph.D.

Office: Owens 301

Office hours: MWF 3:30-5:00, Th 2-4

Office phone: 878-2214

Textbooks

(Required)

Kalat, J. W. (2004). Biological Psychology 8th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

(Recommended)

Hull, E. M. (2004). Study Guide to for Kalat's Biological Psychology. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is for the student to develop a deeper appreciation for and understanding of the influence of biology on behavior. Specific objectives are for the student to:

- understand physiological structures and their functions, with special emphasis on the brain
- understand some of the major biological pathologies, including their effects and treatments
- be able to communicate meaningfully about the basic biological processes of human behavior
- be able to describe and discuss the influence of their own biological systems on their behavior

Course Format

The course will be taught using lecture and discussion format. While a majority of the course will involve lectures, students are expected to participate in activities and discussions. The purpose of these non-lecture experiences is to encourage the student to be *active* in the learning process.

Course Requirements

Exams: Five examinations will be given, each covering three to four chapters. The course schedule provides the reading assignments for each day and the dates of the exams. A majority of each exam will cover information presented in class lectures and discussions. However, part of each exam will cover information presented in the text and outside readings but **not** in the lectures. Thus, it is suggested that students do more than study their lecture notes in preparation for an exam.

Student Presentations: Each student will be required to give two 10 to 15 minute presentations on topics of their choice, but related to the material covered during the class session of their presentation. The student will be required to summarize an article or articles they have read, and instruct their fellow students on how it relates to the material in the textbook.

Grading Methods

Exams - 80%: Each exam will consist of several multiple-choice questions worth one point each. Short answer and essay questions also may be used. Each exam will vary regarding the number of points possible and each exam grade will be based on the number of points correct divided by the number of points possible. The overall exam grade will be based on the total number of points correct (all exams combined) divided by the total points possible.

Class Activities - 20%: The presentation is worth 100 points and will be graded on thoroughness, accuracy, clarity, and student evaluations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January			30	Chapter 9	- Sleep
31	Chapter 1	- Major Issues		April	
February			04	Chapter 9	- Dreaming & Sleep Disorders
02	Chapter 2	- Nerve Cells	06	Exam Three	- Chapters 7 - 9
07	Chapter 2	- Nerve Impulse	11	Chapter 10	- Body Regulation
09	Chapter 3	- Synapse & Chemical Events	13	Chapter 11	- Hormones & Behavior
14	Chapter 3	- Synapse & Chemical Events	18	Chapter 11	- Variations in Sexual Dev.
16	Exam One	- Chapters 1 - 3	20	Chapter 12	- Emotion
21	Chapter 4	- Divisions of the N.S.	25	Exam Four	- Chapters 10 - 12
23	Chapter 4	- Cerebral Cortex	27	Chapter 13	- Learning & Memory
27	Chapter 5	- Development of the Brain	May		
March			02	Chapter 13	- Storing Information
02	Chapter 6	- Visual Coding & Percep.	04	Chapter 14	- Lateralization & Language
07	Chapter 6	- Development of Vision	09	Chapter 15	- Mood Disorders
09	Exam Two	- Chapters 4 - 6	11	Chapter 15	- Schizophrenia
21	Chapter 7	- Hearing & Mechanical Sense	17	Exam Five	- Chapters 13 - 15
23	Chapter 7	- Chemical Senses			(8:00 - 10:00)
28	Chapter 8	- Movement			

Course Legalities

A. Disabilities: Any student in this class who has a disability should contact Canaan Crane and the Student Services Center, GC 101, as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations.

B. Absences: Following University policy, if a student misses more than 25% of the scheduled classes, he or she will receive a failing grade for this course. Absences on the days of exams will result in a grade of zero being given for that exam unless the absence was due to extremely unusual circumstances. Only under such circumstances may a student take a make-up exam.

C. Make-up Exams: If a student has a legitimate reason for missing an exam, he or she may take a make-up exam within 7 calendar days of the regularly scheduled exam. The student must contact the professor to schedule the make-up exam. The student will be required to provide proof of the circumstances which necessitated missing the exam.

D. Late Assignments: Some class activities may be turned in late, with penalty. Ten percent of the points possible will be deducted from the grade for each calendar day the assignment is late.

E. Grade Posting: Exam grades will be posted, with permission, on the bulletin board outside my office, Owens 301. Students may, at any time in the semester, request a printed grade report which reflects their grade for each assignment and exam.

If you wish to have your grades posted, complete and turn in this page.

I, _____, have read the contents of this page and give Dr. B. Roark and Oklahoma Baptist University permission to publicly post my grades for any assignments and/or exams given in PSY 301 Biological Psychology. This permission applies to the final grade in this course as well. I understand that these grades will be posted in the hallway of Owens Hall, outside room 301 and may remain posted indefinitely. I give this consent with the understanding that I will be identified only by my O.B.U. I.D. number shown here _____.