

Physiological Psychology
Psych 3460 campus
Spring 2009

Syllabus

Meets: M-W-F 11:30-12:20 in VSB 130

Instructor: Dr. Carl D. Cheney, ED 485

Office Hours: MWF 12:30-1:30

Teaching Assistant: Holly Anderson

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Required Text: Brain and Behavior, 2nd edition by *Bob Garrett*.

This is an introductory course on the study of the brain and behavior, one of the major disciplines in the field of psychology. How the brain controls the behavior of the organism is the major issue. This course will prepare the diligent student for advanced study in neuroscience and for comprehending many discussions of brain-behavior interactions. You are encouraged to use the Web site listed in the text and all other relevant web sites as often as possible.

The objectives of this course include the following: (1) the student will be prepared to critically consider the popular media and professional literature concerning the biological bases of behavior; (2) the student will be able to name and locate on a model or drawing many general anatomical features of the brain and spinal cord; (3) the student will be able to accurately discuss the anatomy and operation of various systems (e.g., motor – sensory) and circuits (e.g., limbic) in the brain; (4) the student will be able to answer many essay questions about the two-way dynamic relationships between brain mechanisms and environmental contingencies which result in behavior; (5) the student will be able to correctly discuss some research methods common in this discipline; (6) the student will be able to correctly describe several drug-behavior interactions; (7) the student will be able to illustrate how pathological behavior is related to brain insult.

Ultimately, all “psychological” and behavioral processes depend upon the physical biological body. Humans are biological beings and it is to our personal advantage to know a great deal about how our bodies are assembled, how they operate, and about a few things that can go wrong. As behavior psychology students it is essential that you comprehend the basic biology of the organism with which we work, be it human or nonhuman. Actually, no matter what branch of psychology you pursue, knowledge of brain-behavior mechanisms will help your understanding. The issue of nature vs nurture when attempting to account for why we, and other animals, behave the way we do is a false dichotomy. Both participate in an essential, dynamic and continuous interaction.

There is actually no laboratory for this class. Some demonstrations may be provided and you have the compact disc from the text to use as lab experience.

Holidays include: Jan. 19th, Feb 12, Feb. 16th, March 9-13th, Mar 20.

Grades are determined by points earned. There are several ways to earn points (and a few ways to lose points, such as rude behavior in class, cell phone operation, coming in late, yawning without covering your mouth, chewing gum while talking, etc).

Points toward a grade are earned in the following ways:

1. **Term tests**

The best way to determine your command of the material in this class is with frequent written evaluations. *Five 100-point tests are scheduled*, for a total of **500** possible points. These tests, approximately every 3 weeks over 3 chapters, will include short-answer essay, fill in the blanks, identify, definitions, and drawings (I know you probably aren't artists so you best practice the drawings that will be required).

2. **Summary Paper**

A 5–7 page paper is required. Naturally it will be spell- and style-checked *by you* before it is printed double-spaced and handed in. (No folder or cover, one staple in upper left corner.) The paper is **due in class April 1**. No late papers will be accepted. This paper will be in *APA style* (check any APA journals for information) and deal with an issue germane to this class. It is best if you check with the instructor concerning the topic and sources (have a choice of these already selected before asking). The paper is worth a possible **160** points. **(The paper will have an unnumbered cover page with the title, your name, date, and the course number; next it will be 5-7 pages of double-spaced text including an Abstract, Introduction, Body (with subheadings), Conclusions, and References. Reference sources should include the textbook, and may include other library books, no more than 3 web sources, and professional journal articles).** Points are given for organization, content coverage, presentation and relevance. The emphasis should be heavy on brain mechanisms.

Grades: 500+160=660. .90% \times 660=594=A, 80% \times 660=528=B etc.

Weekly schedule, assignments and major weekly activities:

Weeks 1-15

1. Jan. 5-9. Introduction, syllabus, course objectives, grading and papers, about physiological psychology in the scheme of things. Class conduct and expectations. Assignment: Read chapter one.

2. Jan. 12-16. Read chapter two. Cellular communication.

Practice test #1. This will indicate the kinds of questions I ask and a bit about how I grade the answers.

3. Jan. 19-23 (Holiday Jan. 19th). Read chapter three. **Test # 1** over chapters one, two and three on Jan. 26th.

4. Jan. 26-30. Read chapter four.
5. Feb. 2-6. Read chapter five.
6. Feb. 9-13. Read chapter six. **Test #2** chapters 4,5&6 Feb. 11th.
7. Feb. 16-20 (Holiday Feb. 16th). (**Skip chp 7**) Read chapter eight.
8. Feb. 23-27. Read chapter nine.
9. March 2-6. Read chapter 10. (Topic of your paper due in class March 4th.). **Test # 3** (8,9,10) March 6th.

Spring Break March 9-13th

10. March 16-20. Read chapter 11.
11. March 23-27. Read chapter twelve. (Abstract of your paper due in class March 27th.)
12. March 30-April. 3. Read chapter 13. **Test # 4** over 11, 12 & 13, April 1st.
13. April 6-10. Read chapter 14. **Completed** paper is **due in class** April 10th.
14. April 13-17. Read chapter 15.
15. April 20-24. **No test week.**
16. April 27-May 1. **Finals week.** Final exam over chapters 14 and 15 Wed April 29 at 11:30.

No comprehensive final exam as such will be given during Final Examination week. Papers, tests and grades will be available on line and in the Department of Psychology main office after Finals Week. Best wishes.

The End.