

Course Syllabus – Spring 2011
Psychology 461 – Survey of Physiological Psychology
White Hall 209--Thursdays—6:00 PM to 8:40 PM

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Text: Klein, S.B. & Thorne, B. M. (2007). *Biological Psychology*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers, Inc.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to a) increase students' knowledge and understanding of the brain, biology and behavior interact b) to show students how their knowledge of brain, biology and behavior can be applied to their daily lives and experiences and their understanding of themselves and others; c) to help students develop critical thinking skills as well as improve their reading, writing and presentation skills.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	TH 1/13	Course Introduction	Chapter 1
2	TH 1/20	Exploring the Nervous System	Chapter 2
3	TH 1/27	Development and Plasticity	Chapter 3
4	TH 2/3	Nervous System Communication: Exam 1	Chapter 4
5	TH 2/10	Psychoactive Drugs	Chapter 5
6	TH 2/17	Vision	Chapter 6
7	TH 2/24	Hearing, Balance & Other Senses	Chapter 7
8	TH 3/3	Movement: Exam 2	Chapter 8
9	TH 3/10	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 9
10	TH 3/17	Spring Recess	
11	TH 3/24	Eating and Drinking	Chapter 10
12	TH 3/31	Sex	Chapter 11
13	TH 4/7	Exam 3	Chapter 12
14	TH 4/14	Language and Lateralization	Chapter 13

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
15	TH 4/21	Learning and Memory	Chapter 14
16	TH 4/28	Affective Disorders & Schizophrenia	Chapter 15
17	TH 5/5	Cumulative Final Exam	All Chapters

Chapters and dates listed above are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

WEB CONTENT: There will be essential course material posted on the university's Sakai CLE website. Students are required to read this material. There will be quiz and exam questions based in whole or in part on the material. These materials can be accessed at: <http://courses.shepherd.edu/xsl-portal>.

OFFICE HOURS: My ability to provide traditional office hours are limited, and competing professional responsibilities restrict my ability to be on campus outside of class night. I will try to get to campus at or before 5:30 and we can meet in the adjunct cubicle area. With enough notice, we can try to arrange something more private, such as a meeting room in the library. You may also feel free to contact me by email or telephone. If you do email me, please be sure to email me from a Shepherd account. That way I can be sure I am communicating with you and not someone pretending to be you. If you call me at home, please be sure to call me before 8:30 PM as I have small children.

GRADES: Course grades will be based on four exams, two presentations, class attendance and participation. All grading sources will be weighted equally.

Exams: Course exams will cover the lectures, textbook, class presentations, and supplemental materials used, if any, such as material from videos. Exams will not be multiple-choice alone and may also take the form of identifying anatomical structures, fill in the blank, short answer and short essay. Exams will occur approximately every four class periods. The dates for the exams are fixed and will not be changed unless there is some truly exceptional reason (i.e., university being shut down due to snow storm, etc.). Exams will be curved so that the class average is 75%. If the average exceeds 75%, there will be no curve.

Presentations: Class presentations will be group projects involving three people at the most. The first presentation will be about a brain or nervous system disorder of your choice, such as schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, multiple sclerosis, to name just a few. The presentation will cover diagnosis, nervous system structures affected, progression of the disease, and treatment. The second presentation will be regarding a psychoactive drug, such as cocaine, caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, Prozac, to name just a few. The second presentation will cover the addictive liability of your chosen drug, brain structures affected, side effects, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, routes of administration, teratogenic potential, social impact, treatment if addictive, etcetera. More instructions regarding the presentations will be made available early in the course.

Attendance: Class attendance is equivalent to one exam grade. Should a student miss a class for any reason, excused or unexcused, he or she is responsible for the materials used during that class, including announcements and assignments. Students should contact another student or the instructor to determine what materials were missed.

Class Participation: I have found that most students regard class participation and attendance as the same thing. It is not. I realize that different people have different comfort levels with talking in a class this size. However, class is far more interesting when people do talk. Class participation is important and will factor into your grade in that if you are within a few points of a higher grade at the end of the semester and I remember your name and that you participated, it may be enough for me to bump your grade up to the next highest grade level. **Texting during class may count against your grade.**

EXAM MAKE-UPS: For reasons noted above in office hours, there will be no ability to make up quizzes or exams unless there is some truly exceptional circumstance (i.e., a death in the *immediate* family) If make ups do occur, they will occur in my presence or in the presence of another faculty or staff person. In the case that you do need to miss an exam, you are expected to contact me by phone or email and inform me of the situation before the exam. If you do not do so, you will not be able to make up the exam. This policy applies to illness also. If you cannot contact me yourself, have a roommate or family member do so. Additionally, I will require documentation that you visited the student health center, your doctor, or the emergency room.

CONDUCT & INTEGRITY: Students and the instructor are expected to interact with each other maturely and respectfully. Students are expected to do their own work (i.e. no sharing written assignments, cheating during exams, turning in work that is not their own, etc.) and follow university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity. Students who do not do their own work will fail the course if they are caught and can be subject to more severe university discipline including expulsion.

FINAL PROVISIO: Dates and policies are subject to change by the instructor. Changes will be announced in class.