

INTRODUCTION TO NEUROSCIENCE
Course Syllabus
FALL 2016

PSYCHOLOGY 103: Section 2852

Tues & Thurs 12:45-2:10 pm

Founders Hall Room 172

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Office location: Founders Hall 160D – tel/voice mail: 575-6898

Office hours: Mon & Wed 1:30-2:30 pm; Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:30 pm

Required text: Discovering Biological Psychology 1st or 2nd edition
Laura Freberg

COURSE CALENDAR:

***AUGUST* →**

Reading Assignment

T 30 Introduction to Course

***SEPTEMBER* →**

TH 1 Research Methods CHP 1

T-TH 6-8 Neuroanatomy CHP 2

T-TH 13-15 Cells of the Nervous System CHP 3

T 20 SHEEP BRAIN LAB

TH 22 EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3

T-TH 27-29 Psychopharmacology CHP 4

OCTOBER →

T	4	Development of the Brain	CHP 5
TH-T	6-11	Sensory Systems	CHP 7
TH	13	Movement Disorders	CHP 8
T	18	EXAM 2: Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8	
TH	20	Biopsychology of Hunger	CHP 9
T-TH	25-27	Sexual Behavior	CHP 10

NOVEMBER →

T-TH	1-3	Sleep and Waking	CHP 11
T	8	Memory	CHP 12
TH	10	EXAM 3: Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12	
T-TH	15-17	Emotion, Reward & Stress	CHP 14
T	22	Neurological Disorders	CHP 15
TH	26	Holiday – Thanksgiving	
T	29	Neurological Disorders cont.	CHP 16

DECEMBER →

TH-T	1-6	Psychological Disorders	CHP 16
TH	8	EXAM 4: Chapters 14, 15, 16	

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**T 13 1:00 pm FINAL EXAM (optional)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

Neuroscience is an exciting area of study – examining the relationship between the BRAIN and BEHAVIOR. This course will serve as an introduction to the biological basis of behavior and will consist of lectures, discussions, films or videos, and in-class activities, demonstrations, and lab exercises. We will begin by developing a basic understanding of the function of the nervous system and then explore the physiological basis of behaviors such as hunger, sex, sleep, memory, emotion, and psychopathology. Special attention will be paid to recent advances in neuroscience research.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, you will have the critical and necessary knowledge base to:

1. Explain the functioning of the sensory and motor divisions of the nervous system.
2. Explain the functioning of the brain’s reward circuit.



*Some general comments about the course and grading:*

Many students are nervous about taking a psychology course that is so biological. There is a fair amount of new vocabulary that will require some special effort to learn, but any student can succeed in this course by making use of some active learning techniques (flashcards, online study guide, practice questions, re-copying notes) – *doing* something to prepare other than just re-reading class material. Although the majority of your course grade is based on exam grades, I have included a variety of assignments as other ways to earn points and demonstrate your grasp of the class material.

**GRADING:**

**1. Exams:** There will be four (4) exams each worth 70 points, consisting of multiple choice-questions, short-answer, essay, fill-in-the-blank and/or identification questions. The questions will be taken primarily from lecture and the reading assignments, but you can expect some test questions on videos or any class activity. An optional final will be offered for students who have missed an exam or who wish to replace a low exam score. The optional final exam will consist of 70 multiple-choice questions and will cover material from the entire semester. **You will need a #2 pencil and a Scantron 886 form for each exam.**

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 280

**2. Lab & Active Learning Exercises:** Over the course of the semester, you will have opportunities to earn points by participating in lab activities, including brain

dissection, demonstrations, and individual and group activities. You must be in class and participate to receive these points. The breakdown is as follows:

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sheep brain lab                     | 30 points |
| Biopsychology article summaries (2) | 40 points |
| Homework                            | 20 points |
| In-class activities                 | 30 points |

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 120

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There are a TOTAL of 400 points available with the following grade breakdown (no + / -):

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 360 – 400 | A |
| 320 – 359 | B |
| 280 – 319 | C |
| 240 – 279 | D |
| <240      | F |

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### **WITHDRAWAL POLICY:**

For last day to drop classes, file for a refund, or file for Pass/No Pas, please see your class schedule which is available via PiratesNet. You may drop classes using the online system until 11 pm on the last day to drop.

If you stop attending class and miss 2 weeks (consecutively) and the assignments therein, you will be dropped from the class. If you receive financial aid, your benefits may be affected.

### **MAKE-UP POLICY:**

There are **no make-ups** on missed exams. If you miss an exam, plan to take the optional final exam to replace your missed exam. There are also no make-ups on missed in-class activities. Regular attendance is important to earn points toward your final grade.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

You are expected to attend every class meeting. You are responsible for all materials presented and announcements made in class. As stated above, your participation is required for lab and active learning exercise credit and absences will result in a lower grade.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Any evidence of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on an exam or plagiarism, including copying another student's paper or copying information from the internet without citing the source) will result in a failing grade on that assignment, a filing of an MJC Student Conduct Report for your violation of the YCCD/MJC Standards of Conduct, and you may be referred to the Student Discipline Officer for further action.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:**

I will make accommodations for students who require special assistance because of a disability. If you require some assistance, please discuss your situation with me early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

*Note: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*