



**LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE
BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
SYLLABUS**

DATE: Fall 2009

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: PSYC/SW 226-60 Biological Psychology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Lori Elliott Ravét, Ed.S.

Instructor Contact Information:

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Title: Biological Psychology (2007)
Authors: Stephen B. Klein and B. Michael Thorne
Publisher: Worth Publishers
ISBN 10: 0-7167-9922-7

Title: Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind (1999)
Authors: V.S. Ramachandran and Sandra Blakeslee
Publisher: Harper Perennial
ISBN 10: 0688172172

Course Description

Introduces students to a field of neuroscience that is variously referred to as physiological psychology, biopsychology, behavioral biology, or behavioral neuroscience. The main focus is on gaining and/or demonstrating an understanding of relationships between central nervous system processes and human behavior.

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 achieve an understanding of:

1. The major historical landmarks in man's attempt to understand the nature of the nervous system and its role in controlling behavior
2. The concepts and principles concerning genetics, development of the nervous system, nervous system plasticity, and developmental disorders of the nervous system
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4. The methods of communication between neurons in the nervous system
5. The effects of different psychoactive drugs on the nervous system
6. The basic structure, function, and organization of the visual system as well as some of the basic principles of sensory detection
7. The anatomy of the sensory systems and the neural pathways for processing sensory input from each system
8. The general organization of body muscles, the biochemical events that occur when a nervous signal arrives at the muscle, and what types of movements are coordinated by the brain and spinal cord
9. The relationship of wakefulness, sleep, and sleep disorders to bodily functions
10. The biological systems that control eating and drinking
11. The genetics behind sexual development, as well as the biological and psychological processes involved in human sexual behavior, gender identity, sexual preference, and sexual dysfunction
12. The biological processes involved in emotion and stress
13. The role of the brain in language acquisition and language expression
14. The biological basis of the processes involved in learning and memory
15. The various affective disorders (depression, bipolar disorders) and schizophrenia—both of which can severely disrupt the ability to function in the everyday world

Course Activities

Exams

You will be required to take 15 exams for this course. Each exam covers a chapter of the textbook (i.e. Exam 1—Chapter 1, Exam 2—Chapter 2, etc.). Each exam is worth 50 pts.

Research Paper

You will be required to write one research/term paper. The primary function of the research paper is to show your ability to read and understand scholarly research and to use it to support your own ideas and opinions. The research paper must be written using APA formatting. The research paper is worth 200 points. Research papers are due on Thursday, November 12, by 12:00 pm. Late papers will not be accepted.

Class Discussions

Class participation and attendance occurs in the form of discussion topics. There are 10 discussion topics. The discussions are based on the readings from "Phantoms in The Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind." I am looking for depth of thinking, originality, critical evaluation, the ability to apply key ideas and themes to practical situations, independent judgment, organization, and insights into issues. Your postings should demonstrate that you are doing the reading and reflecting necessary to produce a quality discussion. Write directly and informally, yet write in Standard English. I encourage you to use personal examples and to support your points with these examples when appropriate. Make sure your postings reflect university-level writing skills. Use complete sentences, develop your paragraphs, check your

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spelling, and put together a discussion posting that reflects quality. You might ask someone to proofread your discussion prior to posting it in the discussion forum. The course calendar contains due dates for reading your material and participating in the discussion topics

Grading

The final course grade will be calculated based on the following activities/assignments:

1. Exams: 15 @ 50 pts each	750 pts
2. Term/Research Paper	200 pts
3. Discussions	100 pts

Grading Scale

A	945-1050 pts
B	840-944 pts
C	735-839 pts
D	630-734 pts
F	0-629 pts

Incompletes

I am unable to honor requests for incompletes. I have found it impossible to provide extensive and timely feedback to students' assignments in the varying sections of psychology that I instruct, while also managing the independent study needs of students who have requested an incomplete from previous classes. Therefore, if you believe that you are unable to complete this course with a satisfactory grade, please drop or withdraw as soon as possible.

Due Dates

This course is designed to allow you some flexibility in when you complete your course work. Your course calendar outlines a reading and test-taking map that will help you to be successful in not falling behind in your course work but I do not require that you complete an assessment every week. However, please pay close attention to the following due dates as **no exceptions or extensions are allowed beyond these deadlines**:

Assessments 1-8	Thursday, October 22, by 12:00 pm
Research Paper	Thursday, November 12, by 12:00 pm
Assessments 9-15	Thursday, December 17, by 12:00 pm
Class Discussions	As noted in the course calendar

Course Requirements

Learning Modules

Located on the Home Page are 15 Learning Modules. There is a module for each chapter of the textbook assigned for the course. The Learning Modules contain the following content to assist your success in this course:

Chapter Lecture Slides	These notes contain a brief overview of the information contained in the textbook chapter. They will assist you in organizing your thoughts/notes while reading the textbook.
Companion Textbook Website Link	The textbook companion website contains many study and learning tools that help reinforce information presented in the textbook chapter.

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Study Guide	I have prepared a study guide for each chapter. It contains sample study questions. Your assessment for each chapter will be based on the study questions contained in the study guide.
Self-Tests	Self-Tests give you an opportunity to assess your readiness to take the chapter assessment. You will receive a grade and feedback but the grade will not be added to the grade book.
Assessments	A link to the chapter assessment is located within each Learning Module.

It has been my experience, both as a student taking on-line courses and as an instructor of online courses, that these types of classes require significant discipline, independence, and dedication in order to receive a successful grade. I have developed this online course with the understanding that students enrolled in this instructional method are accustomed to independent learning. In addition, I understand that waiting for teacher feedback and correction can be frustrating when you are used to an independent learning style. Therefore, I have developed this course so that you can complete it as quickly as possible with a minimum of time between assignments and/or quizzes. In other words, it is not necessary to wait for my feedback or corrections before moving onto the next section of your textbook. On the other hand, I am here to help you. So please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the textbook and/or course content. In addition, I recommend frequent check-ins to the course website in order to ensure that you are staying up-to-date on all of the requirements of the course.

Adaptations

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, please contact me at ravet@cableone.net.

Technical Assistance

If you are experiencing difficulties accessing your course, navigating Blackboard, or distance learning, please contact the Student Services Coordinator for Distance Learning:
Website: www.lcsc.edu/dl
Phone: 792-2239
Toll free: 800-879-0458