

**Physiological Psychology (830:313:07)**  
**Syllabus, Fall 2013**  
*Mon and Wed 3:20 – 4:40 in PH115 (Busch Campus)*

**Instructor:** Alexander Kusnecov, Ph.D.

**Campus Location:** Room 233a, PsychologyBldg, Busch Campus

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:30 -11:30 (appointments for other times will only be made for exceptional reasons)

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**Teaching Assistant:** Sara Norton, Behavioral Neuroscience Graduate Program ([san103@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:san103@scarletmail.rutgers.edu))

*Course Description:* This course addresses the biological basis of normal and abnormal behavior. The focus will be on the brain - its structure, chemistry and function. The course will deal with sensation, motivation, cognition, and emotion. We will also discuss psychiatric disease, neurodegenerative disease, and drugs of abuse.

**Major Learning Goals**

After completing this course, students will know about the following:

1. The anatomical distinctions of the nervous system
2. How neurons release neurotransmitters and respond to chemical information
3. How information is stored and retrieved in the brain (the basis of learning and memory)
4. How the brain controls movement
5. How the brain organizes sensory information into perceptual experience
6. What genetic and biochemical factors determine psychiatric and neurological problems
7. What drives motivational behaviors, such as sex, sleep and food intake
8. How the defensive immunological activities of the body affect brain function

**Textbook**

*Physiology of Behavior*, 11th Edition; Neil R. Carlson; Pearson Publishers

This is a fact-intensive course with an enormous amount of material to learn. It is a serious introduction to the field of Behavioral Neuroscience, and therefore, **a textbook is essential**. In addition, the MyPsychLab site run by Pearson is an excellent study environment connected to the book; this site will thoroughly prepare you for exams, provide you with quizzes and assignments, and reinforce your understanding of lecture material and what you read in the textbook. This is why there is an access code associated with the purchase of the book.

You have three main options (1-3) for obtaining the textbook (through NJ Books or Barnes & Noble)

1. Hardbound copy with access code (to eText and MyPsychLab)
2. Loose-leaf copy with access code (to eText and MyPsychLab)
3. Access code (to eText and MyPsychLab - but no receipt of a physical copy of the book)

A few more options:

4. Rent the book (11th edition)
5. Obtain a used copy of the 11th edition or (only if you are saving huge bucks) a used 10th edition (do not go to the 9th edition)

If you choose options 4 or 5, you will not get the access code to MyPsychLab. Therefore, you will need to purchase this separately. An access code (that only gets you to the MyPsychLab site run by Pearson and NOT an eText, will cost \$42.50)

*Lectures and Textbook:* Lectures will adhere closely to the general contents of the textbook, which we will follow closely. Some sections of the textbook will be assigned as private reading, since time will not allow for all material to be covered in class. Some lecture material will not come from the textbook. Therefore, class attendance is important. Lecture notes will be posted online as pdf files labeled 'Slide Set\_1', 'Slide Set\_2', etc. The number does not refer to the lecture number, since the slide sets may represent 2-3 lectures of material.

## Assessment

Exams (80% of total grade): There will be three exams. Exams 1 and 2 will be a mixture of written and multiple choice questions. The first exam will account for 20% of the total grade. Exam 2 will account for 25% of the total grade. The Final Exam will be all multiple choice and worth 35% of the total grade.

Assignments & Quizzes (20% of total grade): Assignments & Quizzes will be set up on the MyPsychLab site associated with the textbook. In addition, other assignments/Quizzes will be posted on sakai. Assignment and quiz results will count towards your final grade, but at the same time will serve to keep you up to date with your reading and lecture attendance. There will be a due date for completion of an assignment and/or quiz.

Extra Credit. Some quizzes will be used to provide extra credit. This will not be instituted until after Exam 2 results have been posted.

## Grading System

Students will need to achieve predetermined cut-off points for grades of A, B+, and so on. Cut-off points will be as follows:

A 90-100 B+ 87-89.9 B 76-86.9 C+ 72-75.9 C 60-71.9 D 50-59.9 F <50

## Makeup Exams

I verify all excuses for missing an exam. So please DO NOT TRY to pull the wool over my eyes. If you do miss an exam, it will be a different exam that you will be asked to take. If the exam is missed for a legitimate and verifiable reason, the student must sit for the makeup within three weekdays of the scheduled date for the missed exam. Written and signed documentation will be required, and since the makeup will allow for more study time, the written component of the exam will look for evidence of greater and more precise understanding.

**IMPORTANT:** Failure to take the makeup within three weekdays of the scheduled exam will mean that you will have to take the exam during the reading period between the final class and the final exam. This will be the only opportunity to take a missed exam prior to the final exam. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUP EXAMS AFTER THE FINAL EXAM (unless you have a conflict with another class, and which is acknowledged on the SAS website for exam schedules and rules concerning conflicts).**

Rutgers athletic obligations, religious events, weddings etc that are going to interfere with taking the scheduled exams will require that you take the exam earlier than scheduled. It is up to you to anticipate the conflict, and let me know about these upcoming events so I can administer the exam earlier. If you don't take the exam, then you will either (i) fail to receive any points, or (ii) have the option to take the missed exam during the reading period between the final class and the final exam.

## Lecture Schedule

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Wed	Sept. 4	Overview	1 (private reading; no lecture on this material)
Mon	9	Neurons	2
Wed	11	Neurophysiology	2
Mon	16	Neuroanatomy	3
Wed	18	Neuroanatomy	3
Mon	23	Neurotransmitters	4
Wed	25	Psychopharmacology	4 & 18
Mon	30	Psychopharmacology	4 & 18
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Oct. 2</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Mon	7	Perception	6 & 7
Wed	9	Perception	6 & 7
Mon	14	The Motor System	8
Wed	16	Neurological Disorders	15
Mon	21	Neurological Disorders	15
Wed	23	Sleep	9
Mon	28	Biological Rhythms	9
Wed	30	Sex & Reproduction	10
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Nov. 4</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Wed	6	Ingestive Behavior	12
Mon	11	Learning & Memory	13
Wed	13	Learning & Memory	13
Mon	18	Emotion	11
Wed	20	Anxiety	17
Mon	25	Stress	17
Wed	27	No Class Due to Thanksgiving (Friday Classes)	
Mon	Dec. 2	Psychoneuroimmunology	17
Wed	4	Mood Disorders	16
Mon	9	Schizophrenia	16
Wed	11	Review	

**Final Exam: TBA**