

Physiological Psychology [830:313:01]

aka Neurobiology & Behavior

Fall 2016 on Mon/Thurs 8:40-10:00am
Engineering Building, Room B120

- Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Samuels
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Email: ben.samuels@rutgers.edu
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- TA: Ms. Christine Yohn
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- Office Hours: Thursdays 10-11am by appointment
- Textbook: Physiology of Behavior, 12th Edition, by Neil R. Carlson and Melissa A. Birkett
The textbook is available in both a standard hardcover and a looseleaf format. Choose which format you prefer. You do not need both! REVEL access is not required.

Course Description:

Psychology or Biology alone is insufficient to explain the incredible ways in which the body and brain control behavior. Physiological Psychology is the intersection between Psychology and Biology, in which a biological approach is taken to understand thoughts and behaviors. How do the complex functions of the brain permit us to interact with and learn from our environment? Or more specifically, how might genetics or cells affect emotional responses or memory? The course and textbook are designed to introduce students to the field of Physiological Psychology, which is also referred to as Behavioral Neuroscience.

Sakai

This course will have a dedicated sakai website. You will answer quiz questions on this site. Lecture slides will also be posted after each class. In addition, the site will contain link to videos, downloadable materials, this syllabus, and will be a venue for announcements to the class. This is the tool I will use to email the entire class when necessary. Exam and final grades will also be posted to this site.

Grading

Your grade will consist of the following components:

Quizzes: 15% of grade

We will have unannounced quizzes based on the textbook readings. The quiz questions will be multiple choice or fill in the blank. The quizzes will be presented in class and you will need to provide the answers on the course sakai website. You will have until the next class to post your answers. So for example, if quiz questions are given at the end of class on Monday you will need to post your answers by 8:40am on Thursday. The questions will be about information readily available in assigned readings in the textbook. These pop-quizzes are meant to be a simple and freebie way to boost your grade throughout the semester if you do your independent readings and attend class. Please note that the questions and multiple choice answers will only be given in class!

Video Reviews: 15% of grade

The Charlie Rose show on PBS has run a series of episodes called “The Brain Series” over the last several years. These episodes are co-hosted by Rose and Eric Kandel, a Nobel prize winning behavioral neuroscientist who was originally trained in psychoanalysis. Each episode features a panel of expert scientists, doctors, and/or patients discussing a specific topic. There are 29 different episodes on topics such as mental illness, creativity, pain, and gender identity. By the end of the semester, your assignment is to watch any 5 of these videos (your choice **EXCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION VIDEO**). You will then post to sakai (under the Assignments tab) 2 paragraphs about each of the 5 videos that you watched. The first paragraph should summarize the material in the episode and the second paragraph should describe what you think about the material and/or how it might relate to what you are learning in class. Feel free to watch the videos together, but the posts are meant to be completed independently. If any of your posts are extremely similar to another student’s post then you and the other student will not receive credit for that post! There is a link to the Charlie Rose Videos available on the Sakai website (make sure your web browser allows popups on sakai). They can also be reached at this link:

<https://charlierose.com/collections/3>

THE DEADLINE FOR THE VIDEOS REVIEWS IS THE LAST DAY OF CLASS: 11:55PM on December 12

The videos are meant to take you beyond the material covered in the textbook or in class and to get you to think critically about these topics.

Two Midterm Exams: 20% of grade each:

The midterm exams will be multiple choice using scantron forms. You will need to bring an appropriate pencil. The exam proctor will not provide you with one. The midterm exams will not be cumulative. The midterms will be on Monday, October 10 and on Monday, November 7.

Final Exam: 30% of grade:

The final exam will be cumulative and will be multiple choice using a scantron form. Once again, you will need to bring an appropriate pencil. The exam proctor will not provide you with one. As of today, the final exam will be on Monday, December 19 at 8am in our normal classroom. This is based on the Rutgers calendar.

Makeup Exams:

All students are expected to take the exams on the day they are offered. Any student that misses an exam must provide acceptable evidence for their absence. Only one makeup exam will be offered between the final class and the final exam. This exam will be different than the corresponding midterm exam and will be entirely composed of written answer questions. In other words, it will be much harder! If you have athletic or religious obligations that conflict with the exams, then anticipate the interruption and let me and the TA know in advance! We will make arrangements for you to take the midterm exam and avoid having to take the much harder makeup exam.

Class Attendance:

You will need to attend class in order to receive the quiz questions. In addition, there will be some material covered in lecture that is not included in your reading. This is a large class so I will not be taking attendance. However, do not mistake that as me not caring whether or not you attend. In past classes there was a strong correlation between class attendance and final grade.

Extra Credit:

Each exam will contain a few extra credit questions.

Academic Integrity:

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied could both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of the University Code of Student Conduct can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examination will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

In compliance with the Rutgers University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with the RU Office of Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations and provide me with appropriate documentation.

Class Schedule:

Please see class schedule document on sakai. The dates of the midterms and the final exam are firm, but the rest of the schedule is subject to change. I will update the class schedule document throughout the semester, so please check the document often and before doing your assigned readings.

Course Schedule -- SUBJECT TO CHANGE -- CHECK THIS DOCUMENT ON SAKAI FOR UPDATES

Date	Topics	Readings
September 8 - THURSDAY	Intro and Overview	Syllabus, Chapter 1
September 12 - MONDAY	Neuronal Structure & Function	Chapter 2
September 15 - THURSDAY	Central & Peripheral Nervous System	Chapter 3
September 19 - MONDAY	Central & Peripheral Nervous System	Chapter 3
September 22 - THURSDAY	Psychopharmacology	Chapter 4
September 26 - MONDAY	Psychopharmacology	Chapter 4
September 29 - THURSDAY	Vision	Chapter 6
October 3 - MONDAY	Vision	Chapter 6
October 6 - THURSDAY	Review Session	Chapters 1-4, 6
October 10 - MONDAY	MIDTERM #1	
October 13 - THURSDAY	Audition & Vestibular System	Chapter 7
October 17 - MONDAY	Somatosensation, Gustation & Olfaction	Chapter 7
October 20 - THURSDAY	Movement	Chapter 8
October 24 - MONDAY	Sleep	Chapter 9
October 27 - THURSDAY	Emotion	Chapter 11
October 31 - MONDAY	Learning and Memory	Chapter 13
November 3 - THURSDAY	Review Session	Chapters 7-9, 11, 13
November 7 - MONDAY	MIDTERM #2	
November 10 - THURSDAY	Human Communication	Chapter 14
November 14 - MONDAY	NO CLASS - WORK ON YOUR VIDEO REVIEWS	
November 17 - THURSDAY	Neurological Disorders	Chapter 15
November 21 - MONDAY	Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders	Chapter 16
November 22 - TUESDAY	Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders	Chapter 16
November 28 - MONDAY	Substance Abuse	Chapter 18
December 1 - THURSDAY	Stress, Anxiety, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Chapter 17
December 5 - MONDAY	Stress, Anxiety, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Chapter 17
December 8 - THURSDAY	NO CLASS - WORK ON YOUR VIDEO REVIEWS	
December 12 - MONDAY	Review Session	Chapters 14-18
December 19 - MONDAY	FINAL EXAM	