

Psychology 214: Physiological Psychology

Spring 2008 (Section: PSYC214-002)

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Office Hours: TR 8:00-9:15 AM, 1:30-2:30 PM
and by appointment

Class Location: Bell Building 412

PREREQUISITE FOR THE COURSE:

Introduction to Psychology - PSYC 103.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:

This course will provide you with a general overview of physiological psychology, as well as a detailed examination of the anatomical and physiological correlates of behavior. We will be discussing the following topic areas: Cellular Structure and Function of the Nervous System, Basic Neuroanatomy, Psychopharmacology, Sensation, Motor Control, and Circadian Rhythms / Sleep. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- discuss the historical context of Behavioral Neuroscience
- describe the events associated with the initiation and propagation of an action potential
- identify, name and discuss specific neural structures in the central nervous system
- explain the basic principles of psychopharmacology and sites of drug action
- discuss the transduction and coding of sensory information
- describe and discuss the functional neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of the motor system
- explain the central issues associated with circadian rhythmicity

REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS (Bundled):

ISBN10: 0-205-514383 / 60268-1 / ISBN13: 978-0-205-60268-1

Textbook: *Physiology and Behavior*, Carlson, N. R., Ninth Edition, Allyn & Bacon. (Required)

Study Guide: Study Guide for Carlson, *Physiology of Behavior*, Ninth Edition (Revised Printing), Carlson & Carlson, Allyn & Bacon. Also included: Video Workshop.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

The class will meet for 75 minutes, **twice** per week. **Class attendance is mandatory.** I know from experience that students that do not attend regularly do not perform well on the exams. **I will take attendance on a random basis.** Attendance is one of the best predictors of success in this course. Class attendance and participation can push a grade that is close to a cutoff into a higher grade category. I will use the time in class to present lectures, to give demonstrations, to show videos and to discuss material that is in the text. **I will also discuss some material and topics in class that are not in the textbook.** I am not here to read you the book. I will ask you questions during class to stimulate thought and discussion about the material we are covering. Additionally, it will be extremely difficult to keep up with the amount of information presented in this course if you do not attend class.

You are responsible for all material that is covered in the lectures and in the text. If you cannot attend due to an illness or some other emergency, be certain to get a copy of the class notes from a reliable source.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on **four exams** (three term exams and a final exam) and quizzes. Each of the term exams will be equally weighted at 100 points. The exams will consist of multiple-choice, fill-ins, figure completions, short answer questions and essay questions. Material will be drawn from the lectures, class demonstrations/discussions and the readings.

- The exams will be given on the dates I have indicated below. Each student is responsible for knowing when the term exams will be given as well as taking the exams **on those dates**. Each term test will be worth 100 points.
- Quizzes will be given in WebCT on the dates indicated below. Quizzes will be available for one week (7 days). The cut off time for quiz completion will be 9:00 AM one week from the day that it is made available. **It is not possible to reopen a quiz once the deadline has expired. Please DO NOT take the quiz over a wireless connection!** There will be a total of seven quizzes available during the semester. Quizzes will be worth 20 points each. You may earn a maximum of 100 points for the quizzes.
- Students must take exams at the scheduled times; students arriving more than 10 minutes late will **not** be permitted to take the exam at that time under any circumstances.
- **Each student is responsible for bringing one or two Number 2 pencils to each of the exams.**
- If you are an athlete and know that you will be unable to attend an exam, please notify me **at least one week in advance**; I will make arrangements for you to take the exam.
- If you are a student with special needs (i.e. a documented learning disability) and you require special arrangements for the exam, you must provide written documentation of your disability. Given the appropriate documentation, I will accommodate your needs. **You must provide documentation of your special need in writing at the beginning of the semester.** A syllabus addendum will be provided for special needs students with additional parameters for testing at the SNAP Office following the submission of the appropriate documentation.

Grading: Grades will be assigned on the basis of the number of points that you earn at the completion of the course. The number of points and the approximate percentage of the grade are indicated below.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Approx. % of Grade</u>	<u>Number of Points</u>
Exam 1	17%	100
Exam 2	17%	100
Exam 3	17%	100
Final Exam (comprehensive)	25%	150
Paper	8%	50
Quizzes	17%	100
Total	100%	600

Your lowest term exam score will be dropped and I will calculate your final mark in the course out of 500 points.

Grade Assignment:

The combined total for all of the above will be 500 points. Your final grade in the course will be based on a percentage of points based on the College of Charleston grading scheme:

<u>Number of Points</u>	<u>Approx. % of Total Points</u>	<u>Grade Earned</u>
465 and higher	93% and higher	A
450 – 464	90 – 92.9%	A-
435 – 449	87 – 89.9%	B+
415 – 434	83 – 86.9%	B
400 – 414	80 – 82.9%	B-
385 – 399	77 – 79.9%	C+
365 – 384	73 – 76.9%	C
350 – 364	70 – 72.9%	C-
335 – 349	67 – 69.9%	D+
315 – 334	63 – 66.9%	D
300 - 314	60 – 62.9%	D-
299 and below	< 60%	F

Failure to attend class regularly during the course of the semester may result in a grade reduction. **Those students that miss 5 or more classes prior to the drop date will be withdrawn from the course** and a transcript notation of **WA** (withdrawn due to excessive absences) will be recorded. **This grade is equivalent to an F on your transcript.** Other grades such as W, I or XF may be given in specific circumstances -- please consult the undergraduate course catalog or the Office of the Registrar's web page (<http://www.cofc.edu/~register/>) for additional specific information on these marks.

Make Up Exam Policy:

Make up exams will be given under the following specific circumstances:

1. A death in the immediate family.
2. An illness or emergency that results in a visit to a hospital emergency room or to a physician.

This death / illness / emergency **must** be documented / confirmed (in writing; i.e. you must provide an obituary or provide a letter from a physician) in order to write a make-up exam.

Students that fail to provide adequate documentation will receive a zero for that exam.

Make-up exams will ONLY be given on Reading Day (Thursday, April 24, 2007 at 10:00 AM). These exams will consist entirely of essay questions.

I **strongly** encourage you to attend the regularly scheduled exam as students that take make exams generally do not perform as well.

Early/Late Exam Policy: Requests to take exams early or late due to other commitments (i.e. not due to an athletic event or due to a very specific special need) will consider on a case-by-case basis – however, these requests are strongly discouraged.

OTHER POLICIES, SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Late Withdrawal:

If you chose to withdraw from this course after the official withdrawal date (see schedule below), you must obtain the appropriate form from the Office of Undergraduate Academic Services (Lightsey Center, Room 101).

You must obtain my signature, the signature of the Department Chair and the signature of the Dean of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

It is your responsibility to get these signatures and process this paperwork in a timely manner. Be prepared to write a letter to the Dean indicating why you want to petition for a late withdrawal from the course. There is no guarantee that the Dean will honor your request.

I have no role in processing the paperwork or in the decision process, but your prompt attention to this process is essential.

If you are not doing well in the course...please come and see me. Some of you may find this course challenging. However, the content of this course is very important for other courses that you may take in Psychology (e.g. Sensation and Perception, Motivation, Psychopharmacology, Abnormal Psychology, Health Psychology, Psychology of Stress, etc.) I am here to help you learn the material. If you are struggling with the course, please come and talk to me **early in the semester** while there is still time to compensate for poor performance on one exam.

My Expectations:

1. I have high expectations for your performance in this course. You will not perform well in this course unless you are seriously committed and motivated to understand the material.
2. I expect you to attend every class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to determine what material has been covered and if there were any important announcements made during that class. If you miss a class, ask another student if you can borrow their notes and then see me if you have any questions about the material that was covered.
3. I expect you to arrive on time for class and not to leave early.
4. I expect common courtesy and respect, shown to me as well as to other students in the class.

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A tentative schedule for this course is detailed on the following page. This schedule indicates approximate dates when specific chapters and exams will be covered / given (with the exception of the final exam date and time). I reserve the right to make **ANY** changes necessary during the semester to respond to the special needs of the class.

Tentative Schedule:

Date	Day	Chapter	Exam	Notes
10 January	Thursday			Course Introduction
15 January	Tuesday	1		Introduction
17 January	Thursday	2		Structure and Function of Cells of the Nervous System; Quiz #1
22 January	Tuesday	2		Structure and Function of Cells of the Nervous System
24 January	Thursday	2		Structure and Function of Cells of the Nervous System
29 January	Tuesday	3		Structure of the Nervous System; Quiz #2
31 January	Thursday	3		Structure of the Nervous System
05 February	Tuesday		#1	Exam will cover Chapters 1-3; Graduation Application Deadline for Spring 2008
07 February	Thursday	4		Psychopharmacology
12 February	Tuesday	4		Psychopharmacology; Quiz #3
14 February	Thursday	5		Methods & Strategies for Research
19 February	Tuesday	5		Methods & Strategies for Research
21 February	Thursday	6		Vision; Quiz #4; Last day to withdraw with a W on your transcript
26 February	Tuesday	6		Vision
28 February	Thursday	6		Vision
04 March	Tuesday			Spring Break – No class
06 March	Thursday			Spring Break – No class
11 March	Tuesday	6		Vision
13 March	Thursday		#2	Exam will cover Chapters 4-6 (partial)
18 March	Tuesday	7		Audition, the Body Senses and the Chemical Senses; Quiz #5
20 March	Thursday	7		Audition etc.
25 March	Tuesday	7		Audition etc.
27 March	Thursday	8		Control of Movement
01 April	Tuesday	8		Control of Movement
03 April	Thursday	9		Sleep and Biological Rhythms; Quiz #6
08 April	Tuesday	9		Sleep and Biological Rhythms
10 April	Thursday		#3	Exam will cover Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 (partial)
15 April	Tuesday	9		Sleep and Biological Rhythms; Quiz #7
17 April	Thursday	9		Sleep and Biological Rhythms
22 April	Tuesday			Final Exam Review
24 April	Tuesday			READING DAY
26 April	Saturday		FINAL	Comprehensive Final Exam, 8-11 AM

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