

PSYB64

An Introduction to Physiological Psychology

Tentative Schedule Winter 2018

Course Instructor: Dr. Stefano Di Domenico

Email: stefanoddmn@gmail.com

Please use this email to schedule office hour appointments.

Office Hours: Mondays 6-7 pm, location TBA

I will be setting aside one office hour each week. By specifying my office hours, I am indicating when I will be available for consultation outside of class and that, by implication, I will not be available to meet with students at other meeting times.

TAs: Vicki Dong

Philip Desormeau

TA Email: psyb64winter2018@gmail.com

Please direct your content-related questions to this email.

Textbook: Discovering Behavioral Neuroscience: An Introduction to Biological Psychology 3rd Edition by Laura A. Freberg

Lectures: Mondays 7 – 10 pm in SY110

We will use Blackboard for all course announcements and for links to lectures.

Please monitor Blackboard regularly for course updates.

Course Description

This course explores the biological bases of our experience and behaviour: the ways in which bodily processes and states produce and control behaviour and cognition. Of equal importance, we will examine the ways in which behaviour, cognition and the environment exert their influence on bodily systems. This course is designed for psychology majors and specialists.

Most people are intrinsically curious about the genesis of behaviour—consider the proportion of everyday conversation that revolves around the motives and acts of the people and animals around us. On any given day, newspapers, magazines, TV and the web are full of intriguing and sometimes astonishing stories about how the brain functions. Many scientific disciplines contribute to these themes and this course will include research from psychologists, anatomists, biochemists, physiologists, etc.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. The sooner you let us know about your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Tentative Schedule

The following topics will be covered in the course. The weekly schedule is a guideline and some topics will take more or less than a lecture period to complete. Please note the weeks in which the midterm are indicated. The date for final exam will be determined by the registrar. When I have this information it will be posted to Blackboard.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Textbook Chapter(s)
<u>Part 1</u> <i>An Introduction to the Brain</i>			
1	January 8	Course Overview	1
2	January 15	Anatomy and Evolution of the Nervous System	1, 2
3	January 22	Cells of the Nervous System	3
4	January 29	Psychopharmacology	4
5	February 5	MIDTERM TEST 1 REQUESTED	Covers weeks 1 to 4
<u>Part 2</u> <i>Foundational Topics: Genetics, Development, and Motivated Behavior</i>			
6	February 12	Genetics and Development	5
7	February 19	<i>NO CLASS / READING WEEK</i>	9, 10, 11
8	February 26	Motivated Behavior	9, 10, 11
9	March 5	MIDTERM TEST 2 REQUESTED	Covers weeks 6 to 8
<u>Part 3</u> <i>Advanced Topics: The Neurobiology of Individual Differences</i>			
10	March 12	Neurobiology of Personality Traits	14
11	March 19	Neurobiology of Intelligence	12, 13 (pgs. 471-474)
12	March 26	Neurological Disorders and Review	15

Grading Scheme

Of greatest importance to me is the extent to which students can demonstrate their intellectual command of the subject matter of this course *in its entirety* at the end of the term. Consequently, it is essential that the final exam provide a comprehensive (cumulative) assessment of the course. Given the stress that cumulative final exams produce, students will have the opportunity to take two midterm tests to gain an interim assessment of their ongoing command of the course material. Both midterm tests will be three hours long and will be held during regularly scheduled lecture times. The first midterm test will comprise 20% of your final grade and it will cover Weeks 1 to 4. It will likely be held on February 5, 2018. The second midterm test will also comprise 20% of your final grade and it will cover Weeks 6 to 8. It will likely be held on March 5, 2018. The final exam will comprise 60% of your final grade and it will cover the course in its entirety (Weeks 1 to 12). The final exam will be three hours long. Two-thirds of the questions will cover Part 3; the other third of the questions will provide equal coverage of Parts 1 and 2.

Summary

The first midterm (20% of final grade) will cover Part 1 (Weeks 1-4).

The second midterm (20% of final grade) will cover Part 2 (Weeks 6-8).

A cumulative final exam (60% of final grade) will cover all Parts (Weeks 1-12)

$$= 10\% [\text{Part 1}] + 10\% [\text{Part 2}] + 40\% [\text{Part 3}] = 60\%.$$

However, if your performance on the final exam with respect to Part 1 or Part 2 is greater than your performance on the respective term test, then I will let your performance on that part of the final exam assume the weight of that term test (essentially rendering the term test a practice test). In other words, if you can improve from the term test to the final exam, then your term test grade will not count. Stated differently, your performance on the term tests and final exam will have an interactive, rather than additive, effect on your final grade. Here are the grading algorithms:

Definition of Grading Terms & Variables:

Midterm Test 1 Grade (20% of final grade) = PT1MID (/20)

Midterm Term Test 2 Grade (20% of final grade) = PT2MID (/20)

Final Exam Grade (60% of final grade) = PT1FIN (/10) + PT2FIN (/10) + PT3FIN (/40)

Grades for Parts 1, 2, and 3

Part 1 Grade (30% of final grade) = PT1MID (/20) + PT1FIN (/10)

Part 2 Grade (30% of final grade) = PT2MID (/20) + PT2FIN (/10)

Part 3 Grade (40% of final grade) = PT3FIN (/40)

Decision Rules

If $PT1FIN/10 > PT1MID/20$, then Part 1 Grade (30% of final grade) = $0*PT1MID + 3*PT1FIN$;
Otherwise, Part 1 Grade (30% of final grade) = $1*PT1MID + 1*PT1FIN$

If $PT2FIN/10 > PT2MID/20$, then Part 2 Grade (30% of final grade) = $0*PT2MID + 3*PT2FIN$;
Otherwise, Part 2 Grade (30%) = $1*PT2MID + 1*PT2FIN$

There will be no make-up term tests. All missed tests will automatically receive a grade of zero, and the weight of that term test will be re-apportioned to the relevant section of the final exam. Those questions on the final exam that concern the missed term test will thus take on three times the value, and in turn will be three times as consequential in determining your final grade on this section of the course material. Given that your absence from a term test will only deprive you of the opportunity to demonstrate what you know, your final grade on this section of the course will necessarily be less reliable and accurate. Furthermore, given that the term tests only count if they serve to improve your final grade, ***it will always be in your best interests to take the term tests***, no matter how unwell or unprepared you feel.

There will be no extra-credit opportunities. The only way that students can earn credit in this class is through their term test and exam performance.

Term Test Policies & Procedures. The Registrar typically finalizes the term test schedule sometime during the first few weeks of class. As soon as we are provided the schedule for the term test dates, times, and locations, we will post this information on the Course Blackboard.

Final Exam Policies & Procedures. The scheduling of final exams and the granting of petitions to defer final exams are matters that fall entirely within the jurisdiction of the Registrar's Office. If you have any concerns relating to your final exam attendance, please contact the Registrar.