

# PSYB64: An Introduction to Physiological Psychology

## Course Syllabus

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Stefano Di Domenico

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**Office Hours:** Thursday 5 – 6 pm, SW123-E. Office hours are by appointment only.

**Teaching Assistant:** Achala Rodrigo

**Teaching Assistant Email:** [psyb64winter2018@gmail.com](mailto:psyb64winter2018@gmail.com) Use this email for content-related questions.

**TA Office Hours:** TBA

**Textbook:** *Discovering Behavioral Neuroscience: An Introduction to Biological Psychology 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Laura A. Freberg

**Lectures:** Thursdays 6 – 9 pm in HLB 101

We will use *Quercus* for sharing lecture material and making announcements.

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce students to biological psychology, an interdisciplinary science that seeks to understand the biological substrates of behavior, emotions, and cognition. The course will often focus on the workings of the brain.

If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the *AccessAbility Services Office*.

### 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.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b><u>Part 1</u></b> <i>Parts of the Nervous System</i>			
1	May 9	Course introduction	Syllabus + Ch. 1
2	May 16	Functional neuroanatomy	Ch. 2 (pgs. 27 - 61)
3	May 23	Cells of the nervous system	Ch. 3
4	May 30	Psychopharmacology	Ch. 4
5	June 6	<b>MIDTERM TEST 1 REQUESTED</b>	Covers weeks 1 to 4
<b><u>Part 2</u></b> <i>Origins of the Nervous System / Survival and Reproduction</i>			
6	June 13	Evolution, genetics, and development	Ch. 2 (pgs. 61 – 64) + Ch. 5 + Ch. 13 (pgs. 481 – 482)
7	June 20	<i>NO LECTURE</i>	<i>READING WEEK</i>
8	June 27	Homeostasis and motivation	Ch. 9 + Ch. 14 (pgs. 508 - 519)
9	July 4	Sexual behavior	Ch. 10
10	July 11	<b>MIDTERM TEST 2 REQUESTED</b>	Covers weeks 6 to 9
<b><u>Part 3</u></b> <i>Basic Topics in Biological Psychology</i>			
11	July 18	Sleep and waking	Ch. 11
12	July 25	Learning and memory	Ch. 12
13	August 1	Neuropsychology	Ch. 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 June 6, 2019. The second midterm test will also comprise 20% of your final grade and it will cover Weeks 6 to 9. It will likely be held on July 11, 2019. The final exam will comprise 60% of your final grade and it will cover the course in its entirety (Weeks 1 to 13). The final exam will be three hours long. Approximately half of the questions will cover Part 3; the other half 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. 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.

**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.