

Introductory Psychobiology Section 01 PSYC 30

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/20/2023

Course Description and Requisites

Biological approaches to understanding behavior: evolutionary, genetic, neural and hormonal influences on normal and abnormal behavior.

Prerequisite: BIOL 021 or BIOL 065.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

General Protocol

To succeed in this course, attendance is critical. You should come prepared for class discussions with a completion of course readings. Students are responsible for keeping current on changes that may occur on the tentative schedule of events in the syllabus. Students are expected to maintain a level of professional and courteous behavior at all times.

Cell phones and other electronic devices

You are to turn off cell phones and other electronic devices before the beginning of class. For in-class ("live") instruction: Laptops are permitted for note-taking purposes only. If you use your laptop to take notes you should sit at the front of the class. Laptop use for purposes other than taking notes for 30 will not be permitted. Students not abiding by this policy will be asked to leave the class and will not be permitted to use their laptop for the remaining semester.

Communication with instructor

Use email, office hours, or class time. I will respond to emails M-F 9:00 – 5:00. Please allow 1-2 business days for a response. Please note, email is not a mechanism to get extensive help with course content or with papers. Please come to my office hours for these other issues that require more discussion. Lecture notes will not be emailed to students. When lecture is missed, it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from a classmate. When sending an email to the instructor, please be certain to be specific about the topic. For example, the subject line should include the course ("Psych 30") and brief topic (e.g., "Appointment").

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy s12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

*"Common courtesy and professional behavior dictates that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. This permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material."

*"If you would like to record course lectures, please obtain permission from your instructor in writing (via email is ok) or orally and indicate whether you will record for the whole semester or on a class by class basis."

*"Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent".

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

2. Research Methods in Psychology. Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
3. Critical Thinking Skills. Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues. Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Goals

The goal of this course is to facilitate a basic understanding of neural mechanisms underlying behavior. By the end of the course, you should be able to describe activities of nerve cells as well as that of specific brain structures. You should also be able to describe and discuss complexities associated with specific sensory and motivational systems. A broad understanding of the biological basis of psychopathology is also an outcome of this course.

Finally, it is my goal that you gain a greater understanding of yourself and others, and that you become fascinated with biopsychology even if you think you hate biology!

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, Psych 30 students will be able to:

CLO1 – Students will be able to – identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts related to basic neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and psychopharmacology. Assessment for this will be in quiz 1, midterm I and in an in-class activity

CLO2 – Students will be able to – describe, and communicate the major transduction mechanisms, neuroanatomical pathways and theoretical perspectives associated with vision and nonvisual sensory systems, motivational systems and learning processes. Assessment for this CLO will be conducted in quizzes 2 and 3, and midterms I and II.

CLO3 – Students will be able to – identify, describe, and communicate experimental approaches and associated empirical findings for various methodological approaches in biopsychology. Assessment for this CLO will be conducted primarily in Midterm I, but also in quizzes 1 - 3, and midterm II.

CLO4 – Students will be able to – think critically and creatively about biopsychological approaches to address issues related to behavioral and mental health processes. This CLO will be assessed in essay-type questions on midterm II and the final exam.

CLO5 – Students will be able to – apply biopsychological principles to individual, interpersonal and group behavioral and mental health issues. This will be assessed on the final exam.

Course Materials

Text :

Freberg, L.A. (2019). *Discovering Behavioral Neuroscience: An Introduction to Biological Psychology* (4th Ed). Belmont, CA, Cengage Learning.

ISBN-10: 1305088700

ISBN: 9781337570930

Extra handouts will be available in the modules.

Course Requirements and Assignments

The requirements for this class include four quizzes and four examinations (three midterms and a final). Each quiz is worth about 9% of your grade, and the midterm examinations each count 15% toward the final grade. The final exam will be worth 19%. It is strongly recommended that students take every advantage to earn bonus points (see Extra Credit Points below). They will be offered throughout the semester.

The format for quizzes and midterms is objective (multiple choice, true/false, identify, match) and short answer. Quizzes are to be completed at home, which means that you will be on your honor when you take them. You may use your text, or notes but you may NOT use Google or consult with other persons. Quizzes and other course materials will be available Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. If short answers are required, any hard-copy, short answers may be required to be submitted in class. Midterm exams are scheduled on Thursdays. The final exam date is scheduled for Tuesday 5/24 @2:45 PM.

Extra Credit Points: a maximum of 8 extra credit points may be earned by attending research presentations and for completion of activities listed on the "Bonus Point" handout. To receive credit, you must write a brief summary (1 page maximum) of the each presentation, except noted elsewhere (Due 5/12). All summaries are to be typed (double-spaced) referencing the presentation and submitted on CANVAS. There may also be extra credit opportunities in class.

Note: Due to the fast-paced nature of this course, there will be no early, late, or make-up exams or quizzes. Please check your schedule to ensure that you have no conflicts with the test dates. However, if you have a written medical excuse for missing an exam, a makeup exam will be given within a week of the missed exam, or at the discretion of the instructor. Please note, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements within three days of missing an exam for any needed make-up assignments.

✓ Grading Information

Assignment Approximate percent Points

Quizzes (4) 9% each 27 each (108 total points)
 Midterms (3) 15% each 45 each (135 total points)
 Final Exam 19% (57points)

Total 100% ---300 points

Breakdown

Grading Scale:

69 – 300 90 – 100 A

239 – 268 80 – 89 B

194 – 238 65 – 75 C

150 – 193 50 – 64 D

149 less than 50 F

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.