

# Physiological and Comparative Psychology

## Psyc 4130

Class: 11:15-12:05 MWF

Room: Psychology Building, rm. 243

---

Instructor: Yonat Eshchar  
Office: Psychology building, rm. 603  
Email: eshcharyon@gmail.com

Teaching Assistant: Nicole Stringham  
office: Psychology building, rm. 609  
email: ntstringham@gmail.com

---

The objective of this course is to provide a detailed introduction to biological psychology.

We will explore the biological and physiological mechanisms that underlie human and non-human behavior, look at the mechanism of perception and sensation, and see how this information can be used for practical applications.

Lectures and readings will initially focus on anatomy, the nervous system, the senses, and the effects of psychoactive drugs, and then progress to utilize that fundamental knowledge to explain behavior (such as emotion, stress, and sleep).

**Pre- or co-requisite:** PSYC 2990 or PSYC 3990

### Required Materials

*Text:* Klein and Thorne, (2007). *Biological Psychology*, Worth Publishing, New York, NY

### Evaluation

*In-class assignments/ participation:* These assignments will be done during class at random times. Students must be present in order to obtain credit for in-class assignments. Collectively, these assignments will be worth 100 points.

*Exams:* There will be four exams (including the final exam) during the semester. The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-essay. Each of the exams will be worth 100 points. The exams will *not* be cumulative.

### Assignment of letter grades

%	Grade	%	Grade
93 - 100	A	77 – 79.9	C+
89 - 92.9	A-	70 – 76.9	C
86 - 88.9	B+	60 - 69	D
83 - 85.9	B	Below 60	F
80 - 82.9	B-		

A grade of incomplete is only assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. Such situations require extensive documentation and approval of faculty supervisors. It is only an option if a student is passing the class and is typically only awarded when a student has completed the majority of the classwork and is only missing one or two exams or assignments. If a grade of incomplete is approved, a written plan for completion of the coursework must be developed by the instructor and student and approved by the faculty supervisor.

### Classroom experience and readings

Students should read the assigned material *before* class and come to class prepared to discuss that material. Since this course may be more technical than some other psychology courses, I encourage students to contact me with questions often. I check my email a lot, so feel free to ask questions via email at any time. I also encourage you to meet with other students to discuss the readings, exams, or assignments.

Computers are welcome, as long as you use them for studying. There will be no make up exams without a university approved (or medical) documentation.

**Office hours:** by appointment only.

Week of	Topic	Reading	Test
Jan 6	Orientation, Introduction to biological psychology	Chapter 1	
Jan 13	The nervous system	Chapter 2	
Jan 20	Development and plasticity of the nervous system	Chapter 3	<i>No class Monday</i>
Jan 27	Nervous system communication	Chapter 4	
Feb 3	Nervous system communication, effects of psychoactive drugs	Chapter 4-5	Feb 7 – exam 1, Ch. 1-4
Feb 10	Vision	Chapter 6	
Feb 17	Hearing, balance, and the cutaneous and chemical senses	Chapter 7	
Feb 24	Neurological control of movement	Chapters 8	
Mar 3	Wakefulness and sleep, Biology of eating and drinking	Chapter 9, 10	Mar 3 – exam 2, Ch. 5-8
Mar 10	Spring break – no classes!		
Mar 17	Biology of eating and drinking, Sexual development and behavior	Chapter 10, 11	
Mar 24	Biology of Emotion and Stress	Chapter 12	
Mar 31	Biology of Emotion and Stress, Language and Lateralization	Chapter 12,13	Apr 4 – exam 3, Ch. 9-12
Apr 7	Language and Lateralization, Biology of learning and memory	Chapter 13,14	
Apr 14	Biology of learning and memory	Chapter 14	
Apr 21	Biological basis of affective disorders and schizophrenia	Chapter 15	
Apr 28	Everything we didn't have time for before + review for final		
Apr 30 12:00-3:00	<b>FINAL EXAM Ch. 13-15</b>		

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

**Students with disabilities** should see me as soon as possible, and provide a letter from the UGA Disability Services Office describing what special accommodations you might require. I will be happy to work with you in any way you need.

*As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be **directed to the** instructor.*