

# Physiological and Comparative Psychology

## Psyc 4130

Class: 11:15-12:05 MWF

Room: Psychology Building, rm. 111

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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, and use that knowledge for clinical and 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).

### 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. There will be no make up exams without a university approved (or medical) documentation.

### Assignment of letter grades

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

### 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. Also, please don't text or play on your computer during class, it is distracting to other students, and I reserve the right to ask you to leave class because of it. You may think that you're being sneaky but, even though I do not have the powers of "mind control," "brain control," or have eyes in the back of my head, I can tell, just ask my sister.

**Office hours:** by appointment only.

### Course Outline

<i>Week Of</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading (text)</i>	<i>Test</i>
12-Aug	Orientation, Introduction to biological psychology	Chapter 1	
19-Aug	The nervous system	Chapter 2	
26-Aug	Development and plasticity of the nervous system	Chapter 3	<i>Review for exam 1: Friday</i>
2-Sept	Nervous system communication	Chapter 4	<i>* UGA holiday, no class Monday</i> <b>EXAM 1 (chpt 1-3): Wednesday</b>
9-Sept	Nervous system communication, effects of psychoactive drugs	Chapter 4-5	
16-Sept	Vision	Chapter 6	
23-Sept	Hearing, balance, and the cutaneous and chemical senses	Chapter 7	<i>Review for exam 2: Friday</i>
30-Sept	Neurological control of movement	Chapters 8	<b>EXAM 2 (chpt 4-7): Monday</b>
7-Oct	Wakefulness and sleep, Biology of eating and drinking	Chapter 9, 10	
14-Oct	Biology of eating and drinking, Sexual development and behavior	Chapter 10, 11	<i>Review for exam 3: Friday</i>
21-Oct	Biology of Emotion and Stress	Chapter 12	<b>EXAM 3 (chpt 8-11): Monday</b>
28-Oct	Biology of Emotion and Stress, Language and Lateralization	Chapter 12,13	<i>*Fall Break, No Class FRIDAY</i>
4-Nov	Language and Lateralization, Biology of learning and memory	Chapter 13,14	
11-Nov	Biology of learning and memory	Chapter 14	
18-Nov	Biological basis of affective disorders and schizophrenia	Chapter 15	
25-Nov	Thanksgiving holiday, no class		
2-Dec	Remind you of all of the things that you forgot over the holiday / review for final		<i>*Tuesday class (Friday schedule) so... there is class both Mon &amp; Tues</i>
<b>6-Dec, FRI</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM, 12:00 – 3:00</b>		<b>FINAL EXAM (chpt 12-15)</b>

*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.*

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