Physiological and Comparative Psychology

**Psyc 4130**

Class: 11:15-12:05 MWF

Room: Psychology Building, rm. 243



Instructor: Yonat Eshchar Teaching Assistant: Nicole Stringham

Office: Psychology building, rm. 603 office: Psychology building, rm. 609

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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, 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**

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

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.

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| **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 | *No class Monday* |
| 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 | **FINAL EXAM**  **Ch. 13-15** |  |  |

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. 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.*