

Psychology 110: Psychobiology and Cognition

Instructor

Jennifer McGee

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Class

10:45-11:50 MWF

Office: Pierce 204

Office Hours: Friday 1-2 and by appointment

Office Phone:

TEXTBOOK

This semester we will be using a free online textbook for most topics and I will assign readings for other topics. This textbook features end of chapter quizzes and thought-exercises to help you understand the material.

<http://noba.to/n84fpb3q>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology is the study of the mind, brain and behavior. As such, this course will introduce you to the field of research centered on determining how the brain works and how the brain influences our experience of the 'mind' as well as our behavior.

COURSE GOALS

- To become aware of the major neurobiological approaches to the study of behavior.
- To become familiar with the theories and contributions of major figures in the field.
- To become familiar with major research findings and theories of the field.
- To become conversant in the unique language of neuroscience and psychology.
- To learn the methodology of neuroscience and its limitations.
- To become an informed consumer of "neuro-news".
- To learn to appreciate the necessity of a multi-level explanation of behavior.
- To appreciate the mind-body connection and how it relates to the science of neuroscience and psychology.

Common Courtesy

Please use common courtesy in all your decisions. I promise to spend my time designing these classes to be helpful, engaging and as entertaining as possible. This class is designed to give you a basic understanding of many topics you will encounter in other classes. So please respect your fellow students, yourself, and me. Likewise, I will treat you, your schedules, and your concerns with respect and common courtesy.

Accommodations

Students who require accommodations for physical and/or learning challenges should present appropriate documentation before the end of the second week of class, and plan to meet with me individually to discuss accommodations. Your accommodations are YOUR responsibility. **Failure to set up an alternate test time within 2 weeks of the exam could mean the loss of accommodations.**

Honor code

- Improperly placing students' names on assignments or class exercises, or asking other students to write your name on assignments/exercises to which you did not contribute will also be considered violations of the Emory Honor Code.
- Possession of course exams, lab exercises, or homework assignments that are not yours, or from previous classes, will also be in violation of Emory's Honor Code.
- During exams, looking at other student's exam or discussing exam questions will also be considered violations of the Emory Honor Code.
- Memorizing long passages of someone else's work and using that information to answer an essay question on an exam is not acceptable. You must always cite your sources if the idea is not your own.
- Using any source of information (prepared notes, your phone, the internet) that is not given to you by the instructor to complete an exam is a violation of the Emory Honor Code.
- These are only highlights of the university code. Please read the code in its entirety. You will be required to sign a pledge stating that you have read the honor code and that you abide by it in its entirety.
- **Infractions of the honor code will result in a zero for the assignment/exam and will be referred to the honor council.**

For a copy of Emory University's Honor Code:

http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html

Attendance

- Attendance is NOT required. However, I may have opportunities to earn extra credit and/or surprise quizzes during class. These are NOT available for make-up unless you have an excused absence. Illnesses require a doctor's note.
- You are expected to be present for all exams. If you are sick and think what you have is contagious and therefore, you cannot attend the scheduled exam you must email me prior to the exam AND have a doctor's note that is dated for the day of the exam. You will have one opportunity for a make-up exam. Failure to contact me prior to missing an exam will result in a zero for that grade with no opportunities for make-up.

Grading

This semester you will be asked to select and read a popular press book from a list I have curated. You can find the list on our class Google Drive. Over the semester you will be asked to complete 8 VERY SHORT writing assignments for a total of 75 points.

There will be three **exams** worth 100 points each. The intent is not to be cumulative; however, some concepts or vocabulary from other sections may be required knowledge for later exams. The third exam will take place **Wednesday May 2 from 9-12pm**

The class is graded on a points system where you can earn a total of 375 points. There will be NO rounding up.

Late Policy

- There is no late policy. All quizzes and assignments are to be turned in on time. Keep in mind that the quizzes and assignments require the internet. The internet being 'down' is not an excuse, so plan ahead and submit things early.

Email Policy

- You must write “Psych 110” in the subject line of your emails. You must include your full name in the body of the email. I will check my email at least once a day between 1 and 3pm. I will not respond to emails that do not follow the protocol listed above and I will not respond to emails that ask me for extra credit, additional points, re-grading, or for information found in the syllabus.

Research and/or independent study

- Occasionally, students ask to do research with me and/or sign up for an independent study. I am willing to accept any student who turns in work on time, comes to class regularly, and shows initiative. You do not need to have gotten an A in the class, though of course that is often a way to show initiative. Keep in mind we do not have a small animal facility here at Oxford, so my current research is focused on investigating the mind-body connection and the scholarship of teaching and learning. I try to use modern neuroscience to influence my work, but there are not current opportunities for neural based research.
- If you would like to work with me, it is your opportunity to brainstorm for ideas that you would like to investigate. I am open to many different ideas, so please do not hesitate to ask. I can help formulate your idea into a workable hypothesis and we can work together to bring a project to publication.

Letters of recommendation

- The best letters are written for students who make themselves known to me. Talk with me throughout the semester, invite me to your performances and events, come to office hours, etc. It is not enough to get an A in the class, nor is an A necessary for me to write a letter.
- I need at least a minimum of 30 days for the first letter, 2 weeks for each additional letter.

Additional

- I reserve the right to change or amend this syllabus. Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education