

**Psychology 110: Introduction to Psychobiology and Cognition  
Fall 2014**

**Course Information**

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30-7:10pm  
Location: Seney Hall, 322  
Instructor: Brittany Robinson  
Office: Trailer #2  
Office Phone: 770.784.8620  
Email: [Brittany.robinson@emory.edu](mailto:Brittany.robinson@emory.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm **by appointment only**

Textbook: Lilienfeld, S. O. (2011). *Psychology: From inquiry to understanding*. Pearson.

Website: Blackboard (<https://classes.emory.edu>)

**Course description:** In this course you will better understand the brain and how it influences several areas of psychology, including an individual's sensory and perception systems, learning and memory systems, and social and emotional systems, among other areas.

**Course Goals**

Beyond these content areas, you will learn...

- To gain knowledge of the primary neurobiological approaches to behavior
- To investigate psychological questions by gathering and evaluating information from multiple sources
- To think critically about psychological theories and topics
- To synthesize findings from available literature to form sound arguments
- To apply your psychological knowledge to practical, real-life questions
- To develop your writing skills in a style appropriate to the discipline of psychology (including appropriate usage of APA format).

**Course Policies**

**Attendance:** I will take attendance at each class in an effort to personally monitor students' progress in the class; however, failure to attend class **will not directly affect your grade**. I do encourage you to come to class however, as there will almost always be material covered in class that cannot be found in your textbook. Therefore, it is to your benefit to attend. Attendance at both exams is required and excusable only with official documentation dated for the day of the exam.

**Religious holidays:** Students must notify the instructor one week in advance if they intend to be absent for a religious holiday.

**Disability Accommodations:** If you are registered with ADSR and intend to seek accommodations in this course, please contact me and provide me with your paperwork. Students cannot be granted accommodations without official documentation from ADSR. Please provide this paperwork in sufficient time for allowances to be made for examinations, assignments, or other course requirements.

**Technology:** Please silence all cell phones or electronic devices. Laptops are allowed, but only for note-taking purposes. I reserve the right to revoke laptop privileges if they are abused.

**Email:** Email is, by far, the best way to reach me. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours with the exception of weekends and holidays. Please be mindful of this policy and plan ahead if you anticipate needing my help in preparing for exams and assignments. Make sure that all emails include your full name and “Psych 110” in the subject line. If I do not see these things in the email, I may not respond.

**Grade Disputes:** I am more than happy to consider disputes related to the grade that you were given on an assignment or exam; however, you must schedule an appointment with me by email in order to challenge your grade. Also, please be aware that I am often lenient in grading assignments and exams, so my reviewing your grade could result in either an increase *or decrease* in your original grade.

**Late Policy:** All assignments are to be turned in on time. Assignments will be submitted via email or Blackboard, so plan ahead in case of technical difficulties, electrical or network outages, etc.

### Course Assignments

**Readings:** Assigned readings are designed to be completed before the topic is discussed in class. Students are responsible for all material covered in assigned readings. Readings will be made available on Blackboard whenever possible with the exception of textbook readings.

**Exams:** This course will have two (2) exams, a midterm and a final exam, each testing your knowledge of course material. The format of the exams will be mixed and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and brief essay questions. For each exam, students will be responsible for assigned readings, lectures, and other classroom material. The midterm exam will cover material from the beginning of the semester. The final exam will primarily focus on material covered since the midterm exam, **but will also have a cumulative component**. Midterm and final exams will each be worth 100 points.

Exams are to be completed when offered in class. Early or make-up exams will not be administered, except under extreme circumstances (e.g., death of a loved one, serious illness), and in these instances, documentation is required dated for the day of the exam. Missed exams must be made up within five weekdays of the original scheduled date. If

you do not show up for an exam and fail to contact me, you will automatically be assigned a grade of zero for the exam. Be certain to make appropriate arrangements in advance to avoid exam conflicts. **The final exam is set by Emory for December 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-10:00pm and cannot be changed for any reason, so please make your winter travel arrangements accordingly.** There will be no exceptions to these exam policies in order to ensure equity in grading for everyone.

**Paper Assignment:** Throughout this course, we will discuss many topics within the realm of psychobiology and cognition. In the paper, you will be asked to select a contemporary issue or question involving biological approaches to psychology and cognition, and you will argue one side of the debate. You will synthesize articles and materials presented in class, but will also seek out novel sources of information. The goal of this paper is to think critically about contemporary issues in this field and to be able to present a sound argument on said issues. More details will be provided regarding the guidelines of the paper later in the semester.

**Presentation:** You will give a brief presentation on an assigned topic within groups of 2-4 students. Use of technology and multimedia materials is encouraged. More information regarding the presentation will be provided at a later date.

## Grading

Your final grade will be calculated out of a total of 300 possible points:

Midterm Exam:	100 points
Final Paper:	50 points
Presentation:	50 points
Final Exam:	100 points

Letter grades based on percentages will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	<b>90-92</b>
B+	<b>87-89</b>
B	<b>83-86</b>
B-	<b>80-82</b>
C+	<b>77-79</b>
C	<b>73-76</b>
C-	<b>70-72</b>
D+	<b>65-69</b>
D	<b>60-64</b>
F	<b>Below 60</b>

## **Honor Policy**

Students are reminded of the principles of the Honor Code in effect at Emory University and are expected to uphold those privileges. The specific requirements and procedures pertaining to conduct matters for students in the college are published at <http://oxford.emory.edu/academics/student-services/student-honor-code/>. The Honor Policy will apply to all assignments, exams, and graded pieces of work in this course. Examples of violations of the honor code are:

- Looking on at exam items on another student's exam
- Borrowing heavily from online or library resources for completion of paper assignments.
- Using materials other than your brain to complete examinations (e.g., prepared notes, internet, phone).

**Any piece of work that violates the honor code will be given a grade of zero and will also be reported to the university for review. Your signature below provides verification that you have been made aware of Emory's honor policy, as well as the consequences for violating it.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Topics and Readings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Reading</b>
August 28, 2014	Course Introduction	
September 2, 2014	What is (and is not) Psychology?	Chapter 1 (Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013)
September 4, 2014	Biopsychology: History and Overview	Chapter 1 (Pearson text; access via Blackboard)
September 9, 2014	Brain and Nervous System: Structure and Function	Chapter 3 (Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013)
September 11, 2014	Genetics, Evolution, and Behavior I	(Roth & Dicke, 2005; Buss, 1995; access via Blackboard)
September 16, 2014	Genetics, Evolution, and Behavior II	(Glover, 2011; access via Blackboard)
September 18, 2014	Sensation and Perception I	Chapter 4 (Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013)
September 23, 2014	Sensation and Perception II	(Ramachandran & Rogers-Ramachandran, 1996; Ramachandran & Rogers-Ramachandran, 2000; Blakemore, Wopert, & Frith, 1998; access via Blackboard)
September 25, 2014	Learning and Memory I	Chapter 6 (Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013; Manns & Buffalo, 2013; access via Blackboard)
September 30, 2014	Learning and Memory II	Chapter 7 (Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013)
October 2, 2014	Midterm Review	No readings
<b>October 7, 2014</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	<b>No readings</b>
October 14, 2014	Fall Break—No Class	No readings
October 16, 2014	Biological Underpinnings of Cognition	TBD
October 21, 2014	Biological Underpinnings of Cognition	TBD
October 23, 2014	Language	Chapter 8 (pp. 300-315; Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013); (Poeppl, Emmorey, Hickok, & Pytkkanen, 2012; access via Blackboard)
October 28, 2014	Intelligence and AI	Chapter 9 (Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013)
October 30, 2014	Biological Underpinnings	TBD

	of Emotion I	
November 4, 2014	Biological Underpinnings of Social Cognition	Social Cognition Chapter (access via Blackboard)
November 6, 2014	Love and Reproductive Behaviors	TBD
November 11, 2014	Music	TBD
November 13, 2014	Addiction	TBD
November 18, 2014	Stress, Coping, and Health	Chapter 12 (Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, & Woolf, 2013)
November 20, 2014	Stress & Affective Disorders ( <b>Papers Due</b> )	No reading
November 25, 2014	Autism and Schizophrenia	TBD
November 27, 2014	Thanksgiving—No Class	No reading
December 2, 2014	Other Disorders + Biological Treatments of Disorders	TBD
December 4, 2014	In-Class Presentations	No reading
December 9, 2014	Last Day of Class: Final Exam Review	No reading
<b>December 11, 2014</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>7:00-10:00PM</b>

\* I reserve the right to amend this syllabus at any time.