College of Arts & Sciences

Department of Psychology

Oakland University

***PSY 3180, Biological Psychology, 4 Credits*, *Summer 2024***

Instructor: Keith Williams, Ph.D. Office: 224 Pryale

Course Section #: 30540 E-mail: william9@oakland.edu

Class Time: online (no campus meetings required) Office Phone: 248-370-2308

Classroom: online Consultation Hours: Thurs 10am-noon via Google Meet

Best to make appt.

**Course Description**

Biological bases of behavior of humans and related mammalian species: basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, motivation, emotion, learning and memory, sleep and dreams, sensory-motor mechanisms, brain stimulation, psychopharmacology, hormones and behavior.

**This class satisfies the General Education requirements in the Writing Intensive in a major area*.***

**Course Prerequisites/corequisites:** PSY 1000 and 2500 (Research Design in Psychology)

**Required Text(s) and Supporting Course Material:** Carlson, N.R., *Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience,* 10th ed., 2020.

**Online REVEL digital version is required for this course. Bookmark it!** Additional readings posted on Moodle.

**Online Course Requirements**

Review the [Online Learning Assessment](https://oakland.edu/online/online-learning-assessment/) to see if an online class if for you. You must be prepared!

* Asynchronous format: We will NOT have planned online required meeting times. However, you may be asked to meet virtually with assigned group members for various activities. If I schedule an online meeting, then it will be optional and I will provide information about how to engage in the meeting using online tools (e.g., Google Meet).

[**Computer requirements**](https://oakland.edu/online/online-learning-at-ou/)**:** **You will be required to use your webcam and microphone for some activities.**

**For technical issues (e.g., computer tech problems), please contact the E-Learning and Instructional Support office:**

* Phone: 248-805-1625 (weekdays 8 am to 8 pm and 10 am to 12 pm on Saturdays)
* Submit a [help ticket](https://www2.oakland.edu/secure/esp/)

**Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes**

**Course Goals:**

1. To understand the general relationship between central nervous system (CNS) structure and function.
2. To understand the research approaches (e.g., different animal models) that provide knowledge about CNS structure and function.
3. To understand how the research literature helps to us make informed predictions of relationships between CNS structure/function and psychological phenomena.
4. To appreciate how the area of biological psychology intersects with other areas of psychology.
5. To develop enthusiasm for exploring psychological or behavioral issues from a biopsychology perspective.

**Student Learning Outcomes. By the end of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Explain the general relationships between areas of the CNS (i.e., brain and spinal cord) and their functions.
2. Describe the different research approaches and tools that biopsychologists/neuroscientists use to provide knowledge about CNS structure and function.
3. To apply the above knowledge to scenarios or examples (e.g., case studies of brain damaged subjects, developing drugs to target brain areas or pathway receptors).
4. To compare and evaluate journal articles that attempt to explain psychological phenomena via physiological processes.
5. To construct a written argument (with empirical support) clarifying the relationship between CNS structure/function and a particular topic of the student’s interest.

**General Education Learning Outcomes (intensive writing):** At least one third (1/3) of the overall course grade is based on substantive written assignments. On completion of this course the student will demonstrate

1. knowledge of the elements, writing processes, and organizing strategies for creating analytical and expository prose
2. effective rhetorical strategies appropriate to the topic, audience, context, and purpose

**Expectations for Online Classes**

**Students are expected to:**

* Have computer must have a webcam and microphone
* Have a reliable internet connected computer with the most updated Moodle-compatible web browsers (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge). You may also need current versions of the Flash player, Java and a PDF viewer.
* Have a backup plan to be able to log in from another computer or another location in the event that your computer crashes or internet goes down. Plan ahead for taking assessments and submitting assignments!
* Be an active participant in the course by:
  + Logging in to the course 3-5 times per week (daily login is highly recommended).
  + Completing all reading assignments, lecture activities, and quizzes by their assigned deadlines.
  + Participating in online discussions in a thoughtful manner
* Respond to emails within 24 hours during weekdays (48 hours on weekends)
* Respect rules of netiquette
  + Respect your peers and their privacy
  + Use constructive criticism and refrain from engaging in inflammatory comments
* Contact instructor personally as needed via email [william9@oakland.edu](mailto:william9@oakland.edu)

**You can expect your professor to:**

* Login to the course every weekday.
* Login on Sunday morning, but remain offline the rest of the day (until Monday morning).
* Moderate conversations in forums
* Respond to email within 24 hours during weekdays (48 hours on weekends)
* Grade assignments in a timely manner (approximately 24-48 hours for quizzes/minor assignments and 7-10 days for major paper assignment)
* Request a phone, chat, or in-person meeting for complicated situations

**Grade Determination**

**Grades in this course will be based on evaluation of the following materials:**

* **Introductory Quizzes:** Two quizzes (**total 5 pts**) will be given during the first week of the semester to ensure students understand the syllabus and the written assignment.
* **Section Quizzes:** Total of 5 quizzes worth 30 pts each (**total 150 pts**) will be given over the course of the semester. Quizzes are composed of multiple choice and short essay questions. Short essay questions contribute to the points that qualify the course for an ‘intensive writing course’. Therefore, the answers must be in complete sentence or points will be deducted. The tentative quiz schedule is at the end of this syllabus. Tentative quiz schedule is at the end of this syllabus. Most quizzes open Friday at 8am and close on Sunday at 11:59pm.
* **Final exam:** One non-cumulative exam (**50 pts**) will be given during the scheduled final exam time (during final exam week with a 48-hour window).
* **Written Assignment:** One multi-section written assignment (**total 100 pts**) will be given during the semester. See separate handout for the instructions and point totals for each section. As part of this multi-section assignment, you will practice dissecting a journal article.
* **Homework Assignments**: Weekly homework (**total 25 pts)** may require posting a video response, participating in discussion forum, or completing a written exercise. Weekly homework activities will usually be due on Thursday at 11:59pm.
* **Reading Quizzes:** Reading quizzes (**total 25 pts**) will be completed online using the digital REVEL text. REVEL quizzes must be completed by Thursday at 11:59pm. Percentage earned in REVEL will be translated into Moodle as a percentage of the 25 points possible. For example, an 80% in REVEL will earn 20 points (25 points x 80% = 20 points).

**Grade Calculation:** The sum of points earned in all activities will be converted to a percentage of all points possible (**total possible points = 355**). Thus, you should be able to estimate your grade at any point during the course. I reserve the right to curve the quiz/exam grades and/or course grade. Exact grading scale is located at the end of the syllabus.

**Summary of Point Totals**

**Points Scheduled Activities**

5 Introductory Quizzes (syllabus, written assignment)

150 Section Quizzes

50 Final Exam

100 Written Assignment

25 Weekly Homework

25 Reading Quizzes

**355 total points**

**General Class Expectations and Course Policies**

**Add or Drop the Class:** The University add/drop dates can be found on the website for the [Office of the Registrar](https://www.oakland.edu/registrar/important-dates/). It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the many deadlines for dropping the course. Students can add into the class without the instructor’s permission up to a week after the first class. Thus, our class roster and online interactions may change slightly during the first week and a half. The OU policy for an “incomplete” will be followed. See the [Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.oakland.edu/); scroll down and click on Academic Policies and Procedures and then click on Grading System. OU has “class cancellation days” wherein students with outstanding balances will be canceled (i.e., dropped) from classes and university housing. Students need to be aware of those dates. See [Student Financial Services](https://oakland.edu/financialservices/student-account-information/payments-cancellation/) or the [Registrar’s important dates](https://www.oakland.edu/registrar/important-dates/#tab-2).

**Disability Support Services:** A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the [Office of Disability Support Services](https://www.oakland.edu/dss/), 103A North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of needs during first week of classes.

**Academic Conduct:** The University’s regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may fail the course, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic conduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog, in the Student Handbook or at the [Dean of Students](https://oakland.edu/deanofstudents/student-code-of-conduct/academic-conduct/).

*Important information about chapter assessments & the final exam*

* + Assessments and the final exam are not group projects and are always to be completed independently of other students, including any assistance from other students.
  + Use of artificial intelligence (e.g., Chat GPT) or internet search engines (e.g., Google) to look up answers for any part of an exam is considered cheating. Copying responses from the internet for short answer questions is plagiarism. These actions demonstrate a lack of academic integrity and if suspected, will be reported to the Dean of Students and the Academic Conduct Committee.
  + Moodle will automatically close the assessment/exam when the time limit is up, regardless of your status. You must submit your responses before time is up or your answers will not be saved.
  + Failure to take any assessment or exam before the termination date/time will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for that exam. Complete/submit assessments early to avoid technology problems.
  + Assessments are available for several days, with availability dates posted on Moodle. Because all assessments are open for several days, they will not be reopened *under any circumstance*.
  + See our Moodle webpage for a detailed explanation of how to take exams online.
  + Computer or internet problems during your quizzes or final exam: If you have computer or internet problems during an exam, you must let me as soon as possible, and we will investigate the issue. If you are unable to complete your exam online due to internet issues, you may be required to come to campus for an alternate version of the exam.

#### OU Excused Absence Policy: For students absent due to participation in OU athletics or performances, I will follow the OU Excused Absence Policy as described on [OU Administrative Policies page](https://oakland.edu/provost/administrative-policies/). OU’s policy applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. As of April 2020, the students must provide instructors with completed Excused Absence Form signed by instructor and student. For online classes, this policy is less likely to apply since most quizzes and homework assignments will be open for several days at a time.

**Bereavement Policy**

In the event of the death of certain members within families or among loved ones, the University grants necessary bereavement absences upon student request. For the official policy, see [Bereavement Leave Policy for Undergraduate Students](https://www.oakland.edu/provost/administrative-policies/).

**Veteran Support Services:** The office of [Veteran Support Services](http://wwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/) (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 112 Vandenberg Hall, or phoning 248-370-2010.

**Emergency Preparedness:** In the event of an emergency arising on campus, the Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) will notify the campus community via the emergency notification system. The instructor of your class is not responsible for your personal safety, so therefore it is the responsibility of each student to understand the evacuation and “lockdown” guidelines to follow when an emergency is declared. These simple steps are a good place to start:

* OU uses an emergency notification system through text, email, and landline. These notifications include campus closures, evacuations, lockdowns and other emergencies.
* Based on the class cellphone policy, ensure that one cellphone is on in order to receive and share emergency notifications with the instructor in class.
* If an emergency arises on campus, call the OUPD at (248) 370-3331. Save this number in your phone, and put it in an easy-to-find spot in your contacts.
* Review protocol for evacuation, lockdown, and other emergencies via the classroom’s red books (hanging on the wall) and [oupolice.com/em](https://oupolice.com/em).
* Review with the instructor and class what to do in an emergency ([active shooter](https://oakland.edu/police/emergency-procedures-and-evacuations/active-shooter/), [lockdown](https://oakland.edu/police/emergency-management/lockdown-procedures/), [snow emergency](https://oakland.edu/police/emergency-procedures-and-evacuations/snow-emergencies/)).

#### Make-up Quizzes/Written Assignments in online section: Make-up quizzes and assignments will not be allowed because we will maintain a regular pattern of weekly activity and many of the quizzes and assignments will be open for completion for several days.

**Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns:** The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the [Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns](https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf)

**Tentative Class Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Topic/Important due dates** |
| 1  5/6/2024 | Ch. 1 Origins of Behavioral Neuroscience, Ch. 2 Cells of the CNS  **Section Quiz 1** |
| 2  5/13/2024 | Ch. 3 Structure of the Nervous System  **Written Assignment summary due 11:59pm on Thurs May 16**  **Section Quiz 2** |
| 3  5/20/2024 | Ch. 4 Psychopharmacology, Ch. 5 Methods and Strategies of Research  **Section Quiz 3** |
| 4  5/27/2024 | *Memorial Day 5/27/2024*  Ch. 6 Vision, Ch. 8 Sleep  **Written Assignment summary approvals due 11:59pm on Thurs May 30**  **Section Quiz 4** |
| 5  6/3/2024 | Ch. 9 Reproduction, Ch. 10 Emotion  **Written Assignment article dissection due 11:59pm on Thurs June 6**  **Section Quiz 5** |
| 6  6/10/2024 | Ch. 11 Ingestive Behavior  **Written Assignment final paper due 11:59pm on Thurs June 13** |
| 7  6/17/2024 | Ch. 13 Learning and Memory, Ch. 16 Affective Disorders |
| 8  6/24/2024 | **Final Exam (covers Ch 12, 13, and 16)** |

Note. This is a tentative plan; changes in the dates of lecture topics or exams, or any other aspect of the course are possible (though unlikely). Changes will be announced.

**Grading Scale**

| **GRADE ENTERED INTO OU SYSTEM** | **PERCENTAGE RANGE (CLASS PERFORMANCE)** | **MERIT POINTS ON TRANSCRIPT** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 93 – 100% | 4.0 |
| A- | 90 – 92% | 3.7 |
| B+ | 87 – 89% | 3.3 |
| B | 83 – 86% | 3.0 |
| B- | 80 – 82% | 2.7 |
| C+ | 77 – 79% | 2.3 |
| C | 73 – 76% | 2.0 |
| C- | 70 – 72% | 1.7 |
| D+ | 67 – 69% | 1.3 |
| D | 60 – 66% | 1.0 |
| F | ≤59% | 0.0 |

The percentages for your course grade are rounded to nearest whole number based on the number in the tenth position. For example, 89.46% is equal to 89% and receives an OU grade of B+. This letter grade will appear on your transcript and be converted to 3.3 for calculation of GPA.