Brain and Behavior

PSY - 2710 001

Online

Course Information

Brain and Behavior

PSY 2710-001

Fall 2025

Course Section Information

You have enrolled in an **asynchronous online** course, which means we will not be meeting at the same time, same place at any time during this course. That said, I strongly recommend you plan, and schedule specific times dedicated to working on this course. The official start date for the course is Tuesday, August 26, 2025, please start exploring a little bit of your online learning environment. Please ensure to activate your Announcements. I will send out reminders twice a week, usually every Monday and Thursday.

Although you are free to decide at what time you login each day, this is not a self-paced course. Each week, there will be required readings, a discussion, a quiz, and/or assignments due. I will be sending announcements to remind you of deadlines; nevertheless, you are responsible for staying on top of course communications, assignments, due dates, and course obligations. You are welcome to work ahead and submit assignments early.

Course Description

Prereq: PSY 1010. This course examines the biology of behavior, emphasizing underlying neural mechanisms, the interaction between genes and environment, and evolutionary pressures that have shaped the mind.

Semester: All

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

PSY 1010. This course examines the biology of behavior, emphasizing underlying neural mechanisms, the interaction between genes and environment, and evolutionary pressures that have shaped the mind.

Semester: All

Instructor Information

Name: Kenia Cluff
Preferred Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Email: kcluff16@slcc.edu or via Canvas Inbox
Phone: None
Office Location: Redwood Campus AAB 237 AQ
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesdays 8:30AM to 9:30AM & 11:30AM to 12:30PM, and by appointment.

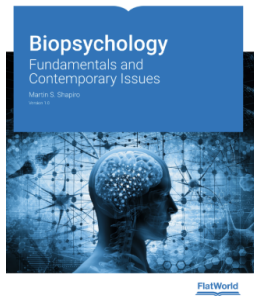## Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials

Authors: Martin S. Shapiro
Title: Biopsychology: Fundamentals and Contemporary Issues
Publisher: Flatworld
ISBN: 9781453392942

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Explain the structure and function of the nervous system on anatomical, cellular, and molecular levels.

- Relate the structure and function of the nervous system to many of the behaviors and mental processes covered Introduction to Psychology courses.

- Describe the more common techniques and methods used to study the structure and function of the nervous system, understanding the strengths and limitation of the scientific method as it relates to brain and behavior.

- Identify the means by which the nervous system adapts itself to the environment throughout development.

- Characterize evolution by natural selection and how that relates to brain and behavior.

- Apply how physiology and biology relates to mental health issues.

- Outline a brief history of philosophy regarding the nature of mind.

- Evaluate the ethics around research and technological innovations in biopsychology.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
8/29/25	Welcome Discussion: Personal Introduction	Discussion	5
8/31/25	Syllabus Quiz	Quiz	5
9/4/25	Ch 1 Activity: Milestones of Neuroscience	Assignment	5
9/5/25	Ch 1 Discussion: Brain in a Vat	Discussion	5
9/7/25	Ch 1 Quiz: History and Introduction	Quiz	5
9/11/25	Ch 2 Activity: Dating Profile of the Brain Lobes	Assignment	5
9/12/25	Ch 2 Discussion: Functional Anatomy	Discussion	5
9/14/25	Ch 2 Quiz: Functional Anatomy	Quiz	5
9/18/25	Ch 3 Activity: Create Neuron Art	Assignment	5
9/19/25	Ch 3 Discussion: Neural Communication	Discussion	5
9/21/25	Ch 3 Quiz: Neuron Communication	Quiz	5
9/26/25	Ch 4 Discussion: Neural Research	Discussion	5
9/28/25	Ch 4 Quiz: Research Methods: Histology, Imaging, and Stimulation	Quiz	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/1/25	Unit 1 Exam: Ch 1 - Ch 4	Quiz	50
10/2/25	Ch 5 Activity: Human Evolution	Assignment	5
10/3/25	Ch 5 Discussion: Genetics & Evolution	Discussion	5
10/5/25	Ch 5 Quiz: Genetics and Evolution	Quiz	5
10/9/25	Ch 6 Activity: Taste Test Challenge!	Assignment	5
10/10/25	Ch 7 Discussion: Senses & Lateralization	Discussion	5
10/12/25	Ch 6 Quiz: Vision & Chemoreceptors	Quiz	5
10/12/25	Ch 7 Quiz: Hearing, Language, Lateralization	Quiz	5
10/15/25	Ch 8 Activity: A Study of Somatosensation and Movement	Assignment	5
10/19/25	Ch 8 Quiz: Somatosensory and Motor Movement	Quiz	5
10/22/25	Unit 2 Exam: Ch 5 - Ch 8	Quiz	50
10/23/25	Ch 9 Activity: Sleep Application	Assignment	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/24/25	[Ch 9 Discussion: Sleep](#)	Discussion	5
10/26/25	[Ch 9 Quiz: Sleep, Dreaming & Circadian Rhythms](#)	Quiz	5
11/1/25	[Ch 10 Discussion: Homeostasis](#)	Discussion	5
11/2/25	[Ch 10 Quiz: Homeostasis](#)	Quiz	5
11/6/25	[Ch 11 Activity: Social Issues in Sex and Gender](#)	Assignment	5
11/7/25	[Ch 11 Discussion: Sexual Fluidity](#)	Discussion	5
11/9/25	[Ch 11 Quiz: Hormones, Sex, and Love](#)	Quiz	5
11/13/25	[Ch 12 Activity: Stressful Management](#)	Assignment	5
11/14/25	[Ch 12 Discussion: Stress, Aggression & Emotions](#)	Discussion	5
11/16/25	[Ch 12 Quiz: Emotions and Stress and Special Topic: Health Psychology](#)	Quiz	5
11/19/25	[Unit 3 Exam: Ch 9 - Ch 12](#)	Quiz	50

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/20/25	Ch 13 Activity: Learning & Memory	Assignment	5
11/21/25	Ch 13 Discussion: Learning and Memory	Discussion	5
11/23/25	Ch 13 Quiz: Learning and Memory	Quiz	5
12/4/25	Ch 14 Activity: Harm Reduction Approaches	Assignment	5
12/5/25	Ch 15 Discussion: Addiction, Developmental Disorders, and Affective Disorders	Discussion	5
12/7/25	Ch 14 Quiz: Psychopharmacology, Recreational Drugs, Tolerance, and Sensitization	Quiz	5
12/7/25	Ch 15 Quiz: Addiction, Developmental Disorders, and Affective Disorder	Quiz	5
12/11/25	Ch 16 Quiz: Other Psychiatric Disorders, Brain Injuries, and Brain Pathologies	Quiz	5
12/18/25	Final Exam: Ch 1 - Ch 16	Quiz	50
12/18/25	Final Project: Infographic and Essay	Assignment	50

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

Your grades will be based on Discussions, Application Activities, Quizzes, Unit Exams, and a Final Exam or Final Project. Each week you will have three types of assignments, an Application Activity, a Discussion, and a Quiz. We will be covering 16 weeks of material, but have less than 16 weeks to get it done due to breaks and holidays. As such, we will double up on chapters twice during this semester (Chapter 6 and 7 in week 7 and Chapter 14 and 15 in week 15). In those weeks, you will have an Application Activity from one chapter and a Discussion from the other, but you will have quizzes for all chapters; this is to prepare you for the Unit Exams. Of note, there will be no Discussion for Chapter 8 because of Fall break or in Chapter 16 because of the shortened school week.

Application Activities

Points: 5 points each; total 60 points

Due Date: Thursdays by 11:59pm, unless there is a holiday.

Description: The application activity is meant for you to apply what was learned in the chapter in a meaningful way.

Grading Criteria: Please refer to the grading rubric.

Present in Modules: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16; 13 total and 1 will be dropped.

Discussions

Points: 5 points each; total 60 points

Due Date: Fridays by 11:59pm, unless there is a holiday, and replies are due Sundays by 11:59pm.

Description: The discussions will usually consist of you watching a video and responding to it. There is no minimum word count required, but please be as thorough as possible in your initial post and responses to your classmates. Remember to proofread before posting.

As part of your critical thinking development, I want you to be aware that we may discuss controversial topics and that there will be other people, both in this class and outside the world, who hold ideas different from yours. It is okay to disagree with a classmate or me, but please, be respectful in your comments. The lowest score will be dropped.

Grading Criteria: Please refer to the grading rubric.

Present in Modules: Welcome,1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15; 13 total and lowest 1 will be dropped.

Quizzes

Points: 5 points each; total 75 points

Due Date: Sundays by 11:59pm.

Description: The purpose of the chapter quiz is to assess understanding and knowledge of the topic covered. There are a total of 17 quizzes in this course, one for the syllabus and one for each of the 16 chapters in the book. The lowest two scores will be dropped.

Grading Criteria: Each quiz will be comprised of 5 questions, each worth 1 point. You will get two attempts on every quiz, and the highest score will be kept. The quizzes are open book/notes but must be taken independently. There is no time limit to the quizzes.

Present in Modules: Welcome and 1 through 16; 17 total and the lowest 2 will be dropped.

Unit Exams

Points: 50 points each; total 100 points

Due Date: Wednesdays by 11:59pm.

- Unit 1 Exam by October 1
- Unit 2 Exam by October 22
- Unit 3 Exam by November 19

Description: There are 3 unit exams, each covers 4 chapters of material. Your lowest score will be dropped. If you are satisfied with the number of points you have obtained

from the first 2 unit exams, you will not be required to take the third exam. The unit exams will cover material from your textbook readings and the lectures.

Grading Criteria: Each exam is worth 50 points and will contain multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exams will be completed via Canvas and are open book/notes, but must be taken independently. There is no time limit on these exams, but you only have one attempt.

Present After Modules: 4, 8, and 12; 3 total and the lowest 1 will be dropped.

Final Exam or Final Project

Points: 50 points

Due Date: 11:59 PM Thursday, 12/18

Final Exam Description: You have the option to take a cumulative final exam, which covers material from your textbook readings and the lectures from chapter 1 to 16.

Final Exam Grading Criteria: The final exam is worth 50 points and will contain multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exams will be completed via Canvas and is open book/notes, but must be taken independently. There is no time limit on this exam, but you only have one attempt, which is due by August 9 at 11:59pm.

Final Project Description: You have the option to complete a final project, which is comprised of two components, an infographic (worth 20 points), and an essay (worth 30 points). You will be required to do some research and find two peer-reviewed journals about the specific area of the brain you wish to learn more about. The purpose of the infographic is to allow you to convey a complex concept (including textbook information and the insights gathered from the peer-reviewed journals) by using visual aids such as charts, graphs, or diagrams. The purpose of the essay is to allow you to concisely summarize each of the two journal articles and then reflect on whether the research supported, added, or changed what we already know about the area of the brain you researched.

Final Project Grading Criteria: Please refer to the grading rubric.

Present in Modules: Final Exam or Final Project; Choose one or the other.

Extra Credit

If you turn in all of your assignments in, the dropped grades can be converted into extra credit points, but this will only apply to one extra Discussion, one extra Activity, and two extra Quizzes, not the Exams or the Final Project. You may earn up to 20 extra points by submitting all assignments, the points will be based on the score of these dropped assignments.

Grading Scale

While grading will be in accordance with the grading guidelines set forth in the Salt Lake Community College Catalog, the instructor offers the following rubric to assist in the evaluation of the student's progress:

Percent Grade

94+ A

90 − 93 A-

87 − 89 B+

83 − 86 B

80 − 82 B-

77 − 79 C+

73 − 76 C

70 − 72 C-

67 − 69 D+

63 − 66 D

60 − 62 D-

>59 E

Incomplete I

A = Excellent performance. Work is exemplary and worthy of emulation by others. The student is in full attendance and constructively contributes to the learning environment.

B = Above average performance. All assignments are complete and exhibit a complete understanding and an ability to apply concepts.

C = Average performance. Accomplishes only the minimum requirements. Oral and written communication is at an acceptable level for a graduate student.

D = Demonstrates understanding at the most rudimentary level. Work is minimally passing.

E = Quality of work is unacceptable. Work is not passing, characterized by incompleteness, lateness, unsatisfactory demonstration of understanding and application. And/or attendance record is unacceptable.

NOTE: I only round up the final grade if the percentage is .5 or higher. For example, an 89.499 would be a "B+," and an 89.5 would be rounded up to an "A-."

Additional Class Policies

Late Work

All late work will be accepted without penalty up until the close of the unit. At the close of the unit, no late work will be accepted unless reasonable accommodations are made with the ADS department or the instructor.

Unit Closing Dates

10/01/25: Unit 1 (Welcome Module and Chapter 1-4)

10/22/25: Unit 2 (Chapter 5-8)

11/19/25: Unit 3 (Chapter 9-12)

12/11/25: Unit 4 (Chapter 13-16)

Perks of On Time Assignments

Please try your best to get assignments turned in on time. I understand that things can unexpectedly come up (life is like that sometimes), which is why I have the late policy that I do. Nevertheless, I wanted to point out some of the advantages of turning in assignments on time:

1. Enhanced Learning: You'll receive feedback, which can be incorporated in future assignments.

2. Better Academic Performance: You have the opportunity to revise and resubmit assignments by the Unit deadline to improve upon your score.

3. Improved Time Management Skills: You learn how to effectively use your time.

4. Positive Impression: Turning in work on time shows respect for the instructor's time and effort. It also demonstrates reliability and accountability, which are important in any setting.

5. Less Stress! It's nice not to have to worry about a past-due assignment and how it may impact your overall grade if you don't submit it.

Engagement Plan

- I will respond to email within 24-48 hours. I will offer feedback on major assignments within one week. The best way to contact me is through the Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication.

- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will provide information about the course content to be covered and remind you of the upcoming deadlines.

- I will be participating in some of the discussion forums from to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload

assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

How to Succeed in the Course

Below are some of the suggestions on how to be successful in this course:

- Because this is an online, class, you are required to have a reliable computer or laptop, high-speed internet connection, and a study space.
- Read the syllabus.
- Make time to review the assigned materials for the week and complete the assignments.
  - Check the course calendar for assignment deadlines.
- Read the announcements.
- Reach out to me with any questions or concerns about the course material as I am here to help you be successful.

Course Content Advisory

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty includes any act that is designed to obtain fraudulently, either for oneself or for someone else, academic credit, grades, or other recognition that is not properly earned or that adversely affects another's grade. In academic circles, plagiarism is taken very seriously. Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property. In other words, when you present someone else's ideas, theories, research, written work, etc. as your own work, you are plagiarizing.

If you are caught in any type of academic dishonesty, you will receive a failing grade of zero (0) on the assignment or exam, and you will be unable to make up those points. In addition, I reserve the right to assign a failing grade for the course, and the appropriate Dean at the college reserves the right to issue other consequences. Please see the the Student Code of Conduct Download the Student Code of Conducfor further information.

The following represents examples of this and does not constitute an exhaustive list:

- cheating, which includes possessing unauthorized sources of information during examinations, copying the work of others, permitting others to copy your work, submitting work done by others and/or AI technologies; completing assignments for others, altering work after grading and subsequently submitting it for re-grading, submitting the same work for two or more classes without the permission of all instructors involved, and retaining materials that you have been instructed to return to your instruct
- plagiarism, which includes taking the words, ideas, or substance of another and either copying or paraphrasing the work without giving credit to the source through appropriate use of footnotes, quotation marks, or reference citations;

- providing materials to another with knowledge they will be improperly used;

- possessing another's work without permission;

- knowingly furnishing false or incomplete academic information;

- altering documents that make up part of the student record;

- forging signatures or falsifying information on any official academic document.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Online Tutoring

Students at SLCC have access to online tutoring through Canvas. From your Canvas course click Online Tutoring in the course navigation and follow the steps to set up an

appointment. If this is your first time using the Online Tutoring we recommend you click "Take a Tour" to familiarize yourself with the service.

Note that students only receive 480 minutes of tutoring time each semester. After that we encourage you to use the resources found through this link:
https://www.slcc.edu/tutoring/index.aspx

If you have any additional questions reach out to elearningsupport@slcc.edu.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the Institutional Syllabus page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

SLCC Student Academic Calendar

Technical Issues?

Technical problems may occur from time to time. I know my way around a computer, but I am no tech guru. If your computer locks up, crashes, have trouble logging in, etc. during a quiz or assignment, you should try to find another computer as soon as possible to complete the activity. If you are still having technical problems, you should:

- Contact Canvas Support:
  - 24/7 Canvas Support. SLCC students, faculty, and staff have access to 24/7 Canvas support by calling 801-957-5125 or 844-334-0397.

- Send me an e-mail as soon as possible stating the problem. Do not wait a week to contact me. Once a technical problem has been verified, I will re-release an assignment for you if a solution to the verified issue was not found before the close date with no point penalty. Keep in mind, I can track log-in times and attempts. If this is a common occurrence, you will not be allowed to make-up the assignment/assessment.