SYLLABUS

PSY308 Biopsychology
Spring 2011
Unique: 43635

Time: MWF 10-11 AM
Location: NOA 1.126

Instructor: Hongjoo Joanne Lee, Ph.D.
Email: leehj@psy.utexas.edu
Phone: 232-8055
Office: SEA 4.222
Office Hours: Wed 2-3, Fri 11-12, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Elizabeth Smith
Email: essmith@mail.utexas.edu
Phone: 232-8055
Office: SEA 4.222
Office Hours: Tue 9-11, or by appointment

Content

This course is an introduction to the biological basis of psychological processes and behavior. We will first cover the basic foundations of the nervous system, such as anatomy and physiology. Then, we will study how the nervous system underlies our perception, motor skills, basic needs such as eating and sleeping, emotions, memory and many basic behaviors involved in daily life. We will also talk about various brain disorders. This course also covers other basic concepts, findings and research in the field of Biopsychology.

Textbook

Biological Psychology by James Kalat

Grading Policy

The course grade will be based on four examinations, each covering about one-fourth of the course material and a cumulative final examination. The exams will include material from lectures, readings, and points brought up in discussion during class. Each test will consist of multiple choice and short answers. The best 4 out of 5 grades will be used in calculating the course grade, in which each exam grade will count 25% towards to the final course grade. Thus, you have the option of not taking one of the four tests during the semester or the final test. There

are no make-up tests unless you have a written doctor's or coach's note. Letter grade cutoffs are as follows:

93-100	=	A
90-92.9	=	A-
87-89.9	=	B+
83-86.9	=	B
80-82.9	=	B-
77-79.9	=	C+
73-76.9	=	C
70-72.9	=	C-
67-69.9	=	D+
63-66.9	=	D
60-62.9	=	D-
< 60	=	F

Prerequisites

PSY301 with a C or better. The Psychology Department will drop all students who do not meet the prerequisite.

Special Needs

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To determine if you qualify, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. If they certify your needs, I will work with you to make appropriate arrangements.

University policy

Please read the policy listed in your Blackboard.

My assumptions

A. I use Blackboard to distribute course materials, to communicate, and to post grades. In particular, I will post the PowerPoint lecture material ~24 hours prior to each lecture. It is expected that you bring it to the class to take notes. If you are not familiar with the use of Blackboard, please go to the HELP desk located in the Flawn Academic Center.
B. Use of E-mail is the University's official correspondence. Thus, you are encouraged to check your e-mail at least twice a week. I will periodically communicate with you via e-mail.
C. I will not take attendance, but you are responsible for the materials that we talk about in the class.
D. Use of a laptop is permitted as long as it is not disruptive to the class. However, I hold the right to regulate the use of laptops and other electronic devices at anytime during the lecture.

Course outline

The following schedule is only approximate, and subject to change during the semester.

Date	Topic	Readings
Unit 1: Foundations		
Jan 19, 21	Introduction to Biopsychology	Chapter 1
Jan 24, 26, 28	The anatomy of the nervous system	Chapter 4
Jan 31, Feb 2, 4	Neural physiology	Chapters 2,3
Feb 7, 9	Drug actions on the nervous system	Chapter 3
Feb 11	*TEST 1*	
Unit 2: Sensory and Motor Systems		
Feb 14, 16, 18	Visual system	Chapter 6
Feb 21, 23, 25	Auditory, chemical, & somatosensory systems	Chapter 7
Feb 28, Mar 2, 4	Motor system	Chapter 8
Mar 7	*TEST 2*	
Unit 3: Innate Behaviors and Cognition		
Mar 9, 11	Ingestive behavior	Chapter 10
Mar 21, 23, 25	Reproductive behavior	Chapter 11
Mar 28, 30 Apr 1	Sleep and dreaming	Chapter 9
April 4, 6, 8	Learning and memory	Chapter 13
Apr 11	*TEST 3*	
Unit 4: Plasticity and Disorders		
Apr 13, 15, 18	Neural plasticity and brain damage	Chapter 5
Apr 20, 22	Cognitive functions	Chapter 14
Apr 25, 27	Stress and emotion	Chapter 12
Apr 29, May 1, 4	Mental disorders	Chapter 15
May 6	*TEST 4*	
	FINAL EXAM	