Course: **PSY 332, BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE (Spring 2011, 43710)**

Professor: Francisco Gonzalez-Lima, Ph.D.

George I. Sanchez Centennial Professorship in Liberal Arts
Director, Texas Consortium in Behavioral Neuroscience
Departments of Psychology, Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor, Institute for Neuroscience, Center for Behavioral
Neuroendocrinology and Imaging Research Center

Office Hours: T TH 2-3:15 PM; Office: SEA 3.236

Teaching Assistant: Jacqueline R. Kane
Office Hours: M 3-5 PM or by appointment; Office: SEA 5.232
Email: jacquelinerkane@gmail.com

Place & Time: NOA 1.124; T TH 3:30-5:00

Textbook/Resources: Neuroscience - Exploring the Brain, 3rd Edition
Mark F. Bear, Ph.D., Barry W. Connors, Ph.D., Michael A. Paradiso, Ph.D. ISBN: 0-781-76003-8

Interactive CD-ROM- packaged with every copy of the book and on the Student Resource Center of the book website: http://connection.lww.com/products/bear/src.asp

Evaluation: Sixty percent of the total grade will come from two partial exams. Three partial exams will be given and the lowest grade will be deleted. If you miss an exam, that exam will be the exam deleted; no make-ups will be given. A comprehensive final exam will account for the other 40% of the total grade. No make-up will be given for the final.

Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Half of the questions will come from material presented in lectures, and half will come from the chapters assigned in the textbook. You will be responsible for lecture material even if it is not in the text, and you will be responsible for assigned chapters even if they are not discussed in the lectures.

No communication will be allowed during the exams. All institutional rules on Student Services and Activities (UT publication No. 9009) will be enforced; in particular, the rules on Scholastic Dishonesty (Appendix C). Failure to follow these rules, as determined by the professor, will be sufficient cause to assign an F grade.

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

PSY 332, BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE
SCHEDULE, SPRING 2011

TOPIC	DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHAPTER
		PART I: Fundamentals of Neuroscience	
1	Jan. 18, 20	Introduction to behavioral neuroscience concepts and methods	1
2	Jan. 25, 27, Feb. 1	Basic structure of the human nervous system	7
3	Feb 3, 8	Cells of the nervous system and neural networks	2, 23
	Feb. 10	**FIRST EXAM (30%)**	**Topics 1-3**
		PART II: Sensory Systems and Perception	
4	Feb. 15, 17	Visual system and perception	9, 10
5	Feb. 22, 24; March 1	Auditory system and audiovocal communication	11, 20
6	March 3, 8	Somatosensory systems and pain	12
	March 10	**SECOND EXAM (30%)**	**Topics 4-6**
		PART III: Sensorimotor Integration and Behavioral Control	
7	March 22, 24	Reflex and voluntary movements	13, 14
8	March 29, 31	Arousal and activity-sleep cycles	19, 21
9	April 5, 7	Hormones and sexual behavior	15, 17
	April 12	**THIRD EXAM (30%)**	**Topics 7-9**
		PART IV: Adaptive Behavior and Brain Disorders	
10	April 14, 19	Thirst, hunger and reinforcement	16, 18
11	April 21, 26	Learning and memory	24, 25
12	April 28; May 3, 5	Brain disorders	22
	Tuesday, May 17, 2–5 PM	**FINAL EXAM (40%)**	**All Topics**

What advice would you give to a Behavioral Neuroscience student?

Behavioral Neuroscience is an upper-division science class. Students need to understand that this class really differs from most other classes in the Psychology department. It is similar to the lower-division PSY 308 Biopsychology class in content but it goes in more depth.

Students who have taken Biopsychology or related courses are better prepared for this class. Students without prior courses in biological sciences usually struggle and have low performance in this class. Students will find that this class is not necessarily harder than related science courses they have taken at UT Austin, but there is likely a faster pace and less room for slippage. A student who gets off to a good start will face a more enjoyable learning experience in this class, both academically and intellectually. A student who falls behind early will spend many days playing catch up and will never feel entirely at home in this class. Students have to assume more responsibility for their own learning in this class. That means paying attention to course syllabi, reading class policy statements carefully, attending class faithfully, studying in groups and keeping up with reading assignments even when instructors do not remind students to do the work.

How can students academically succeed in an upper-division science course such as Behavioral Neuroscience?

First, check out the advice offered by former students enrolled in these classes: *"Get started on course readings early; choose interesting questions to ask during class; manage your time well."* I would add the suggestion that students form small study groups and review the material on the interactive CD-ROM packaged with every copy of the book (this can also be accessed on the book Web site). Students in study groups do much better in this class. Also review the course images posted in my lab Web site: http://homepage.psy.utexas.edu/homepage/group/gonzalezlimalab/psy332.htm

Finally, I would advise any students to get to know their professor and TA. The professor has over 25 years of experience teaching Neuroscience to students at various levels (undergraduate, medical, graduate, and postdoctoral students); and the TA is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in Neuroscience. Take advantage of office hours to ask pertinent questions about course material or reading assignments.

How can students maximize their Behavioral Neuroscience experience?

A school the size of UT Austin offers endless opportunities for learning and growing. Seek out and welcome those opportunities. Attend lectures and presentations related to Behavioral Neuroscience. For example, NEU 394P - Current Topics in Behavioral Neuroscience, which runs Wednesdays, 3-5 PM, is made of seminars by UT and invited speakers talking about their current research topics in the behavioral neuroscience area. Some seminars overlap with the Institute for Neuroscience seminar series. A list of seminar topics and speakers is not available until the start of each semester. The TA can tell the topic each week to all interested. You are welcome to join us. Browse the Web to learn about what other students and scientists are doing in Behavioral Neuroscience, and join research labs and organizations that will stretch your talents and help you explore your interests.

The Psychology Department will automatically drop psychology majors who do not meet the following prerequisites:
(a) PSY 301 with a C or better
(b) PSY 418 (or an equivalent listed in the course schedule) with a C or better
(c) Upper-Division standing (60 hours completed)