

Psychology 209, section 730
Brain and Behavior
Fall 2023
Synchronous Online
Tue/Thu 3:00-4:20 pm EST

Instructor

Alexa Veenema; Office Hours: by appointment through Zoom; aveenema@msu.edu

Graduate TA

Samantha Bowden; Office Hours: by appointment through Zoom; bowdensa@msu.edu

Readings

“Behavioral Neuroscience” 8th Edition, 2016, SM Breedlove and NV Watson, Sinauer press, available at the Student Book Store.

Course description

This course covers a range of issues related to the function, development, and evolution of the brain. We will discuss how single cells function within networks that enable us to think, feel and behave. The neural basis of motivational systems will be considered, as will the biology of sleep and rhythms, learning, memory and cognition. We will also discuss ways in which problems can arise in these neural systems and in the behaviors and mental processes that they regulate.

Course Schedule

8/29	Introduction/ Functional Neuroanatomy	Ch. 1, 2
8/31	Functional Neuroanatomy	Ch. 2
9/5	Neurophysiology	Ch. 3
9/7	Neurophysiology/Neurochemistry	Ch. 3, 4
9/12	Neurochemistry	Ch. 4
9/14	Review session	Ch. 1-4
9/19	Exam #1	Ch. 1-4
9/21	Hormones and the Brain	Ch. 5
9/26	Hormones and the Brain	Ch. 5
9/28	Evolution	Ch. 6
10/3	Development	Ch. 7
10/5	Sex & gender	Ch. 12
10/10	Review session	Ch. 5-7,12
10/12	Exam #2	Ch. 5-7,12
10/17	Sensory systems	Ch. 8
10/19	Motor control	Ch. 11
10/24	<i>Break day</i>	

10/26	Homeostasis	Ch. 13
10/31	Homeostasis	Ch. 13
11/2	Biological Rhythms & Sleep	Ch. 14
11/7	Review session	Ch. 8,11,13,14
11/9	Exam #3	Ch. 8,11,13,14
11/14	Emotion	Ch. 15
11/16	Psychopathology	Ch. 16
11/21	<i>Study Day</i>	
11/23	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	
11/28	Psychopathology	Ch. 16
11/30	Learning & memory	Ch. 17
12/5	Review session	Ch. 15-17
12/7	Exam #4	Ch. 15-17

Online Synchronous Course through Zoom

This course will be 100% online and will be taught synchronous through Zoom (Zoom link will be sent to you prior to the first class). **Class attendance will not be monitored.** However, it is strongly recommended to attend the live lectures to do well in this course. Lectures and exams will take place during the scheduled class times. Lecture slides will be posted on D2L and on TopHat before each lecture. Top Hat in-class questions and the correct responses will be posted on TopHat after each lecture. Lectures may be recorded and may be posted on D2L after the lecture. The recorded lectures are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Exams

There will be **four online exams through TopHat that will take place at the scheduled class time.** Exams are not cumulative. **There is no final exam.** Exams will cover material dealt with during lectures. All questions will be multiple-choice. The exams will be available for you to look over after they have been graded. You can do this by making an appointment with Dr. Veenema or the TA.

There will be no make-up exams, except for medical or family emergencies. If you missed an exam due to an emergency, you need to discuss your options with the instructor. Please be aware that it is against MSU policy for a professor to give any individual student a special opportunity that is not provided to all students. We will not be allowed to provide individuals special chances for extra credit or extra opportunities to make up exams, etc.

Top Hat

This course requires the use of Top Hat (www.tophat.com), a classroom engagement tool that is designed to assess your understanding of course material in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or

through text message. All student responses to Top Hat questions will be graded on correctness (See **Overall Grade** for further details).

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

In addition to allowing for immediate response to questions in class through your device, this class will be using Top Hat with Top Hat Test to run exams online from any personal or mobile device (i.e., your phone or laptop) in an online, secure testing environment. If you leave the browser during a test, you will be automatically locked out of the test. It is very important that you purchase your Top Hat subscription with Top Hat Test option as soon as possible at the beginning of this course so that there are no complications when it is time for the first test! See this article for more information on purchasing Top Hat Test (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Purchasing-Top-Hat-Test>).

An email invitation has been sent to you by email. If you didn't receive this email, you can register by visiting the PSY209 course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/224158>

Note: The PSY209 Brain and Behavior Course Join Code is 224158

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. They would require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues.

Review sessions

Exam review sessions will be held by the TA during class time. During these review sessions, the TA will not be giving prepared lectures, but rather will go over the most important slides and will answer your questions. You can ask questions through email in advance or through Top Hat while in class. Come prepared with questions to get the most out of these review sessions!

Grades

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale: 90-100% = 4.0; 85-89% = 3.5; 80-84% = 3.0; 75-79% = 2.5; 70-74% = 2.0; 65-69% = 1.5; 60-64% = 1.0; < 60% = 0.

Overall grade

The four exams together will count for 100% (with each exam 25%). Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions, each worth 2 points for a total of 100 points. **You can earn bonus points for each of the four exams with your responses to in-class Top Hat questions:** If you answered 40-50% of the in-class TopHat questions correct, you will earn 2 bonus points; If you

answered 51-60% of the in-class TopHat questions correct, you will earn 4 bonus points; If you answered >60% of the in-class TopHat questions correct, you will earn 6 bonus points.

No other extra credit points will be given to any student in this course and emails from students asking for extra credit will not be answered.

Office Hours

Please contact Dr. Veenema or the TA by email to make an appointment for office hours, which will occur remotely via Zoom.

Other issues

The professor and the TA are here to help you learn. We are happy to discuss with you any questions related to the brain and behavior, and to discuss material covered in class or in the text, as well as questions you might have that go beyond what we are able to cover in class. We also would like to help students that are having difficulties with the class and might like general advice about how to study more effectively.

Please email the professor if you have any concerns about your ability to succeed in this course due to challenges of online learning, technology, and the Tophat platform with differing availability by country. We will try to work with you so that you have full access to all course materials.

Please email the professor if you must miss class due to illness or self-isolation. We will try to work with you so that missed classes will not harm your performance or put you at a disadvantage in the class.

If you stay on MSU campus, please obey all MSU policies including those policies to slow the spread of COVID-19 (<https://msu.edu/together-we-will/keeping-spartans-safe/>).

Academic Honesty

The Spartan Code of Honor states, "As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do." In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities ([SRR](#)) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Psychology Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades](#); [the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](#); and [Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](#). Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity

rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity webpage](#).)

Inclusive Environment

MSU is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive community in which students, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) reviews concerns related to discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, disability status, and any other protected categories under the University Anti-Discrimination Policy (https://www.hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/ADP_policy.html) and Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (<https://civilrights.msu.edu/policies/rvsm.html>). If you experience or witness acts of bias, discrimination, or harassment, please report these to OIE: <http://oie.msu.edu/>.

Limits to Confidentiality

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the MSU Police Department) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the [MSU Counseling Center](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored. If you require testing accommodations (e.g., additional time.) you must contact me and present your VISA *at least two weeks before the exam date* to schedule an alternative exam.

Disruptive Behavior

Article 2.III.B.4 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SRR\)](#) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the [SRR](#) states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](#) states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action."

Supportive resources for students

A comprehensive list of support resources for MSU students is centralized on the Department of Psychology website (<https://psychology.msu.edu/>) with a direct link (<https://psychology.msu.edu/undergraduates/student-resources.html>). This list includes resources related to Academic Learning, Mental Health, Culture, and Identity. This list has been compiled and centralized to assist students in their search throughout the MSU website for these resources.

Additional resources for students:

[Spartan Code of Honor](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Tolerance and civility](#)

[Religious Observance Policy](#)

[Student Athletes](#)

[Pronouns](#)