

Psychology 209, section 001
Brain and Behavior
Fall 2020
Online
Tue/Thu 2:40-4:00 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

9/3	Introduction/ Functional Neuroanatomy	Ch. 1, 2
9/8	Functional Neuroanatomy	Ch. 2
9/10	Neurophysiology	Ch. 3
9/15	Neurophysiology/Neurochemistry	Ch. 3, 4
9/17	Neurochemistry	Ch. 4
9/22	Review session	
9/24	Exam #1	
9/29	Hormones and the Brain	Ch. 5
10/1	Hormones and the Brain	Ch. 5
10/6	Evolution	Ch. 6
10/8	Development	Ch. 7
10/13	Sex & gender	Ch. 12
10/15	Review session	
10/20	Exam #2	
10/22	Sensory systems	Ch. 8
10/27	Motor control	Ch. 11

10/29	Homeostasis	Ch. 13
11/3	Homeostasis (Guest lecture by Dr. Christina Reppucci)	Ch. 13
11/5	Biological Rhythms & Sleep	Ch. 14
11/10	Review session	
11/12	Exam #3	
11/17	Emotion, stress & aggression	Ch. 15
11/19	Emotion, stress & aggression (Guest lecture by Dr. Katie Yoest)	Ch. 15
11/24	Psychopathology	Ch. 16
12/1	Psychopathology	Ch. 16
12/3	Learning & memory (Guest lecture by Dr. Christina Reppucci)	Ch. 17
12/8	Review session	
12/10	Exam #4	

Online Course

This course will be 100% online. Class attendance will not be monitored, but it is strongly recommended to attend the lectures in order to do well in this course. Lectures and exams will take place during the scheduled class days. 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 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 4 online exams during class days. 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.

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 participation and 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/161975>
Note: The PSY209 Brain and Behavior Course Join Code is 161975

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, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, 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.

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 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 1 point for a total of 50 points. *You can earn bonus percentage points toward 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 2/50 bonus points, if you answered 50-60% of the in-class TopHat questions correct, you will earn 3/50 bonus points, if you answered >60% of the in-class TopHat questions correct, you will earn 4/50 bonus points. No other extra credit points will be given to any student in this course.

Make up exam

No make-up exams will be scheduled during the semester. If you missed an exam, you will 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.

Office Hours

Please contact Dr. Veenema or TA Samantha Bowden 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: Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Department of Psychology adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; see <https://ombud.msu.edu/resources-self-help>). Cheating will be taken very seriously and any student that violates MSU rules (i.e. is caught cheating on any assignment) will be given a failing grade for the class, the incident will appear permanently on the students' record and the case will be brought to the attention of the Psychology Department advisors who may take further action.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: MSU 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 Dr. Veenema at the start of the term and/or **two weeks before the exam date**. Requests received after this date may not be honored.

Additional resources for students:

[Spartan Code of Honor](#)

[RVSM Limits to Confidentiality](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Tolerance and civility](#)

[Religious Observance Policy](#)

[Student Athletes](#)

[Pronouns](#)