

Psychology 209, section 001
Brain and Behavior
Spring 2020
C20 Snyder Hall
Mon/Wed 4:10-5:30

Instructor

Alexa Veenema; Office: 212 Giltner; Office Hours: by appointment; aveenema@msu.edu

Graduate TA

Taryn Meinhardt; Office Hours: by appointment; meinhar6@msu.edu

Undergraduate TA

Madison Sewick; Office Hours: by appointment; sewickma@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.

Schedule

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|------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1/6 | Introduction/ Functional Neuroanatomy | Ch. 1, 2 |
| 1/8 | Functional Neuroanatomy | Ch. 2 |
| 1/13 | Neurophysiology | Ch. 3 |
| 1/15 | Neurophysiology/Neurochemistry | Ch. 3. 4 |
| 1/20 | NO CLASS | |
| 1/22 | Neurochemistry | Ch. 4 |
| 1/27 | Review session | |
| 1/29 | Exam #1 | |
| 2/3 | Hormones and the Brain | Ch. 5 |
| 2/5 | Hormones and the Brain | Ch. 5 |
| 2/10 | Evolution | Ch. 6 |
| 2/12 | Development | Ch. 7 |
| 2/17 | Sex & gender | Ch. 12 |
| 2/19 | Review session | |

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| 2/24 | Exam #2 | |
| 2/26 | Homeostasis | Ch. 13 |
| 3/2-3/6 | SPRING BREAK | |
| 3/9 | Homeostasis (Guest lecture by Dr. Christina Reppucci) | Ch. 13 |
| 3/11 | Sensory systems | Ch. 8 |
| 3/16 | Motor control | Ch. 11 |
| 3/18 | Biological Rhythms & Sleep | Ch. 14 |
| 3/23 | NO CLASS | |
| 3/25 | Review session | |
| 3/30 | Exam #3 | |
| 4/1 | Emotion, stress & aggression | Ch. 15 |
| 4/6 | Emotion, stress & aggression (Guest lecture by Dr. Katie Yoest) | Ch. 15 |
| 4/8 | Psychopathology | Ch. 16 |
| 4/13 | Psychopathology | Ch. 16 |
| 4/15 | Learning & memory (Guest lecture by Dr. Christina Reppucci) | Ch. 17 |
| 4/20 | Review session | |
| 4/22 | Exam #4 | |

Lecture slides

Lecture slides will be posted before each lecture. Top Hat in-class questions and the correct responses will be posted after each lecture. This is not an on-line course. Simply learning material on the lecture slides, without attending lectures, will not suffice to get a good grade.

Exams

There will be 4 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 allow us to go paperless and 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/654383>
Note: The PSY209 Brain and Behavior Course Join Code is 654383

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. These sessions are voluntary and attendance will not be monitored, but will help you learn the material. During these 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 in person 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 90% (with each exam 22.5%) and Top Hat responses count for 10% toward your final grade. Note that you can earn bonus percentage points with your Top Hat responses for each of the four exams: If you have 40-50% of the answers correct, you will earn 2/50 bonus points, if you have 50-60% of the answers correct, you will earn 3/50 bonus points, if you have >60% of the answers correct, you will earn 4/50 bonus points. No 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.

Other issues

A general comment: The professor and the TAs 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.

Problems: Your TA can help deal with any special problem related to exams and/or grades if they come up. The TA maintains all of the records of them. Any questions pertaining to grades should be directed to your TA. If you have a disagreement with your TA about how a question on an exam or quiz has been graded, you must bring it to the attention of Dr. Veenema within one week of the day that you received the score if you would like your concern to be addressed.

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://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/index.html>). 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 prior to the accommodation date** (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

If you require testing accommodations you must contact Dr. Veenema and present your VISA **at least two weeks before the exam date** to schedule an alternative exam. Typically, the exam will be scheduled during a special exam sessions offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Tuesday at 4 pm and Thursday at 3 pm in Giltner 346. If you are unable to make either of those times, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two weeks prior notification requirement.