**Brain and Behavior – PSY209**

**When: Monday and Wednesday, 8:00 – 9:20 AM**

**Where: Zoom (979 1927 8557; password: 0987)**

# Course Description

In this course, we will discuss how the brain works to influence behavior, as well as how behavior and our environment alter the brain. This includes basic physiological mechanisms in which cells in the brain communicate with one another to allow species to interact and navigate their environment, up to more evolutionarily advanced processes such as the use of complex cognitive strategies in humans. Additionally, we will discuss how brain mechanisms can become pathological, leading to maladaptive consequences and conditions such as those seen in mental illness.

**Instructor:** Ben Fry, M.A.

**Office:** Zoom

**Office hours:** Fridays (930 – 1030a)

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**Graduate TA:** Taryn Meinhardt

**Office:** Zoom

**Office hours:** Tuesdays (330 – 430p)

**E-mail:** meinhar6@msu.edu

**Undergraduate Assistants:** Dania Alsabeh; Jillian Lange

**Office:** Zoom

**Office hours:** Wednesdays (930-1030a) & Thursdays (3-4p)

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# Reading Material

*Behavioral Neuroscience* 8th Edition, 2016, SM Breedlove and NV Watson, Sinauer press, available at the Student Book Store. Companion website to this textbook: https://www.bn8e.com This website features chapter summaries, tutorials, flash cards and other study aids as well as links to recently published news articles on topics relevant to each of the chapters in the text. *You are not required to purchase any code/accounts or extras with the textbook in order to complete this course.*

Note: The 7th edition of the text is also acceptable; however, the title is *Biological Psychology*

(if you intend to buy the 7th edition, make sure the text is authored by Breedlove& Watson; *there are other textbooks with this same title!*). If you have questions regarding the text before purchase, please direct your inquiries to the TA.

# Attendance

It is expected that you attend each lecture. You are responsible for all information presented in class, including any announcements and class discussions. Lectures will include material not presented in the book. You should prepare for each class by reading the assigned chapter prior to class. Course information, syllabus, review guides, announcements will be posted using D2L. Abbreviated versions of the PDF files used for lecture will be posted after each lecture.

# Questions and Exam Preparation

**ALL E-mail inquiries should be directed to Taryn Meinhardt and the UAs.** If you are having difficulty with the material, have questions or other concerns, you may come to office hours or make an appointment. You are encouraged to ask questions and utilize the service of the assistants who are available to help you learn.

**Review sessions:** Review sessions (1 per exam; no review for final exam) will be held by the TA *outside* of normal class hours. During these sessions, the TA will answer your questions, but will not be giving a prepared lecture. If there are no questions, the review session will end early.

# Exams and Grading

**Four Midterm Exams**: (45 questions each, 5 points/question = **225 points/exam**). These exams will cover material dealt with during lecture periods (lectures, movies, discussion...etc) or contained in the readings. They will be multiple-choice tests. Exams will occur over D2L during our normally scheduled class time. The exams will not be returned to you, but they will be available for you to look over after they have been graded. You can do this at the office hours of the TA. **You must take the exam on D2L at the NORMAL class time—**the exam will be available beginning @ 745am on D2L and will close promptly at 920am on D2L. These exams will function like a normal class period, i.e. if you “show up” at 9am to take your exam, you will only have 20 minutes to complete it.

**Use of D2L Lockdown Browser:** All exams, including the final, will utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser. Follow the instructions at <https://web.respondus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RLDB-Quick-Start-Guide-D2L-Student.pdf> if you need help getting started. We will *not* be using the webcam monitor, so you can ignore this portion of the guide. NOTE: Make sure all programs other than your internet browser (e.g. chrome, firefox, etc) are closed. Programs like Skype and Zoom being open will prevent you from accessing the exam.

You must use either a Windows or Mac computer to take the exams. Due to technical difficulties, iPads are *not* recommended unless it is the only option you have available. You will need to **email the TA** if you plan to use an iPad so that additional functionality can be enabled for your exam. A separate set of instructions for iPad users is available at: <http://support.respondus.com/support/index.php?/Knowledgebase/Article/View/219/0/can-an-ipad-be-used-to-take-a-lockdown-browser-exam-instructions-for-students>

There will be a **PRACTICE EXAM/Syllabus Quiz** held on D2L before Exam 1 so that everyone can install Respondus and take care of any technical difficulties ahead of time. Completing the practice exam will award you up to **10 extra credit points** toward your final course grade.

**Final Exam:** (75 questions, 3 points/question, **225 points**). The final exam will be cumulative, covering material from throughout the semester. This will be the same format as the midterms.

**Class participation:** (**120 points**).

There will be at least 6 in class activities. During several class periods we will set aside time to discuss an issue in biological psychology that is controversial and/or is directly relevant to important social issues. You will then be asked to write one to two paragraphs in response to a question regarding the issues discussed. Questions will be formulated in such a manner that there will always be at least one correct answer; a grading rubric will be provided on D2L. Students will receive up to 20 points per assignment for each discussion period. There may be questions on midterms or the final exam that deal with material brought up during these periods of discussion.

**Grades will be assigned on 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

# Make-up Exams

Make-up exams will **only be given in extreme cases such as**: 1) a documented serious medical or family emergency, or 2) a documented scheduled conflict, such as a religious holiday or required participation in a university-sanctioned event. No makeup exams will be given unless you have a valid, documented excuse (e.g., a note from the dean, a note from your doctor recommending that you not attend class). If you cannot get a note or if your excuse involves something that is personal and that you want to keep private, you must get a note from the Dean. If you cannot take the exam because of a university-scheduled event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team), a religious holiday, or some other acceptable event that could have been foreseen, you must notify the TA **at least one week before the exam**. If you cannot take the exam because of a sudden illness or because of a family emergency, you must notify the TA **by the end of the day of the exam.** Absence from an exam for any other reason will result in a grade of 0 for that exam.

There are no make-up exams without a written valid excuse AND permission from the TA. **Permission must be obtained immediately before or after the missed exam (within 1 day)**.

# 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." In addition, the Department of Psychology 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. (See *Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide* (http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/index.htm) and/or the MSU Web site: http://www.msu.edu.). At MSU, General Student Regulation 1.00 states in part that “no student shall claim or submit the academic work of another as one’s own.” (For the complete regulation, see Protection of Scholarship and Grades.) You are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You may not assist anyone or be assisted by anyone on an exam, and you may not use the text or any notes during an exam. Your written work must be your own and you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com web site to complete any course work in this course. Any student caught cheating, plagiarizing or otherwise violating the MSU academic integrity policy may receive the maximum punishment, including a grade of 0.0 in the course.

# Classroom Behavior

Classes begin on time. Students are expected to put away all distractions before class begins, and turn off cell phones, iPods etc. It is not appropriate to answer phone calls or text message during lecture. If you arrive late or leave early, plan to sit near the back and by an aisle to minimize the disruption to others. **Please stop talking to your neighbor during the lecture.** Please respect your instructor and fellow students by turning off electronic communication devices during class. Laptop use is permitted. However, distracting activities such as instant messaging, writing e-mail, social networking, or playing games is **strictly prohibited during class time.** These behaviors are disruptive and are not conducive to the learning process.

**Zoom Etiquette**

All students will be automatically muted when they enter the zoom meeting. During lecture, if you’d like to ask a question, simply use the “Raise Hand” feature in the participant window, at which point, one of the TAs will unmute you. Please be sure to “lower your hand” once you have been unmuted. Additionally, you may also type questions you have directly into the chat; be aware, however, that I will not see your question while I’m sharing my screen with slides; you will still need to wait for a TA to notify me. Please keep the chat clear of any unnecessary/off-topic messages just as you would refrain from carrying on an unrelated conversation with a neighbor during an in-person class. The TA will revoke chat privileges from individual students if this becomes an issue.

# Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) to establish clear and reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY). If you require testing accommodations as specified from RCPD, contact your TA with the appropriate paperwork at least one week prior to the exam date.

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| **Schedule** |  |  |
| **Date** | **Seminar** | **Reading** |
| 11-Jan | Reading and Reflection | Ch. 1 |
| 13-Jan | Reading and Reflection | Ch. 1 |
| 18-Jan | **NO CLASS** |  |
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| 20-Jan | Introduction | Ch. 1 |  |
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| 25-Jan | Functional Neuroanatomy | Ch. 2 |  |
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| 27-Jan | Functional Neuroanatomy | Ch. 2 |  |
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| 1-Feb | Functional Neuroanatomy | Ch. 2 |  |
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| 3-Feb | Neurophysiology | Ch. 3 |  |
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| 8-Feb | Neurophysiology | Ch. 3 |  |
| 10-Feb | Neurophysiology | Ch. 4 |  |
| 15-Feb | **Exam 1** | Ch. 1 - 4 |  |
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| 17-Feb | Chemical Basis of Behavior | Ch. 4 |  |
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| 22-Feb | Chemical Basis of Behavior | Ch. 4 |  |
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| 24-Feb | Drugs & Behavior | Ch. 4 |  |
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| 1-Mar | Hormones & Behavior | Ch. 5 |  |
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| 3-Mar | **NO CLASS** |  |  |
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| 8-Mar | Evolution | Ch. 6 |  |
| 10-Mar | **Exam 2** | Ch. 5 - 6 |  |
| 15-Mar | Development | Ch. 7 |  |
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| 17-Mar | Development | Ch. 7 |  |
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| 22-Mar | Taste | Ch. 9 |  |
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| 24-Mar | Sex: Evolutionary & Hormonal Basis | Ch. 12 |  |
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| 29-Mar | Homeostasis | Ch. 13 |  |
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| 31-Mar | **Exam 3** |  |  |
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| 5-Apr | Emotion, Stress, & Aggression | Ch. 15 |  |
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| 7-Apr | Psychopathology | Ch. 16 |  |
| 12-Apr | Learning & Memory | Ch. 17 |  |
| 14-Apr | Learning & Memory | Ch. 17 |  |
| 19-Apr | **Exam 4** | Ch. 15 - 17 |  |
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| 21-Apr | TA/UA Research Presentations |  |  |
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| 26-Apr | **Final Exam – D2L @ 7:45 – 9:45 AM** | Cumulative |  |
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