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# PSY209 Brain and Behavior Summer 2024 (05/13/24 – 06/27/24)

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Online Asynchronous | 3 credits | Instructor: Bing Mo | Email address: [mobingxi@msu.edu](mailto:mobingxi@msu.edu)

## Class Format & Course Website:

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**This class is fully online.** All materials will be available on the course D2L site (<https://d2l.msu.edu/>). You will need to have access to high-speed internet connection and a computer to perform coursework.

- If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem, you can visit the D2L Help Site – <https://help.d2l.msu.edu/>, or visit the MSU Tech Support Site – <https://tech.msu.edu/support/help/>
- I may periodically post announcements on the D2L site. It is your responsibility to set-up notification preferences to receive course announcements via email. See <https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/All-About-Notifications>

## Contact Information:

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Email ([mobingxi@msu.edu](mailto:mobingxi@msu.edu)) is the best way to reach me. **Please send your email with the course number (PSY 209) in the subject line.** I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, though at times a 48-hour response time may be expected. Please also send me an email to schedule a meeting with me.

**Office Hours:** Since this is an online asynchronous course, in-person meetings are not available. I am happy to meet with you **by appointment via zoom.**

## Required Textbook:

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Breedlove, S. M., & Watson, N. V. (2019). *Behavioral neuroscience* (9th ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.

There are also links to recently published news articles on topics relevant to each of the chapters in the text.

**Note:** You may use the 8th or 10th edition of the textbook if you have it. A pdf version of the 8th edition is available on D2L under Course Information. However, you are also responsible for knowing any information that may be in the lecture videos from the 9th edition but might not be in previous editions.

## Course Objectives:

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This is an introductory course covering the biological basis of behavior. We will examine the physiological, developmental, and evolutionary mechanisms of behavior. The basic structure of the nervous system, its components, circuitry, and organization will also be discussed. In addition, the course will cover major behavioral deficits that result from brain damage and/or neurochemical imbalances. The overarching goal is to provide you with a basic understanding of relationships between the nervous system and behavioral and mental states, both healthy and disordered.

## Course Structure:

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PSY 209 is a challenging, fast moving, structured course that contains regular assignments and exams. This course is presented in an online format in set of weekly modules. To stay on track, you must: **1) check your email and the D2L site frequently, and 2) complete lesson modules every week.** See below for a snapshot of what is expected of you.

- Read assigned readings
- Watch posted video lectures in course website and take notes
- Complete Weekly Discussion and Responses and Activity Quizzes
- Complete weekly exams
- Ask questions!

Since this is an online summer course, you should expect to spend more time each week on the course than you typically might spend on your semester long or in-person courses. You should expect to spend 12-24 hours a week on this course during our compressed-week schedule. This is a reminder that this will require planning and discipline to get the most out of this course. It is important to keep up and not fall behind in your assignments. Good Luck!

## Evaluations and Assignments:

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All the dates for your exams and assignments are listed and marked at the end of this syllabus (see [Course Schedule](#) and [Calendar](#)). Please mark them in your calendars now! All the due dates are in Eastern Time (ET). Different time zones will not be accepted as an excuse for late or missed assignments. Neither makeups nor extensions will be given, except for valid schedule conflicts or unavoidable emergency circumstances that are fully documented.

**Note: Your final grade will be based on a percentage (%).**

### • Activity Quiz (30%)

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There will be weekly class activity worksheets for students to complete. The worksheet questions will be in a fill-in-the-blank and matching/ordering format, with word banks provided. **Please be careful with your spelling, as D2L will mark your answer incorrect if it is spelled wrong, and we will not revisit your answer/grade due to misspelling.** The correct spelling will be provided in the word bank. Worksheets for each module will be available when the module opens and must be submitted on D2L by **Saturdays at 11:59 PM ET each week**. You will have **only one attempt and 60 minutes** to complete each activity quiz. There are a total of 7 class activity quizzes, and each quiz will contribute to your final grade. The quizzes are open-note and open-book, but you must complete these assignments independently.

### • Weekly Discussion (30%)

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There will be one discussion topic each week, focusing on a neuro-ethics issue in biological psychology. A new topic will be assigned each week, except for week 7, resulting in a total of 6 discussion topics. Each week, 3 or 4 videos will be posted, examining a controversial social issue related to biological psychology. Students will then be prompted to answer a few questions and post their opinions on the discussion forum in D2L. Students are expected to post their initial response by **Wednesdays at 11:59 PM ET**. Subsequently, students must post a thoughtful response (i.e., “yes, I agree with you” will not count as a thoughtful response) to another student’s initial post by **Fridays at 11:59 PM ET**. Each discussion will be worth 16 points: 10 points for your discussion post and 6 points for your response.

**Note:** You must submit your initial post to be able to see other people’s posts

### • Exams (40%)

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There will be one exam (multiple choice questions) at the end of each of the seven weeks of the course. Exam 1-6 will be available at 11:59 PM ET on Thursdays and last until **11:59 PM on Saturdays**. Exam 7 will be available at **11:59 PM ET on 6/25** and ends at **11:59 PM ET on 6/27**. This means you will have access to start the exam within that 48-hour period. However, once you start, you will have **50 minutes to complete** the exam. If you start less than 50 minutes before the close of the exam (i.e., 11:20 PM ET on Saturday or later), you will not get the full 50 minutes as the exam will close at 11:59 pm ET. It is important to make sure you’ll have good internet throughout the exam. Internet, time zone, and computer issues will not be accepted as excuses for make-up exams. There are a total of 7 exams and only the highest 6 scores will count (**the lowest score will be dropped**).

### • Extra Credit

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You can earn extra credit for this course by participating in psychology research and extra discussion activity.

- You will receive an extra 1% on top of your grade by simply submitting a self-introduction post through the discussion forum. You must submit your post before **Friday, 5/17 at 11:59 PM**.
- You will receive 1 point for every 60 minutes of research participation (<https://msu-psychology.sona-systems.com/>), with a maximum of 5 points (3%) of extra credit added to your final grade. Documentation and information for SONA research participation are on D2L. All research must be completed by **Thursday, 6/27, by 11:59 PM**. If you have specific questions about participating in the SONA study, please contact Audra Jeffrey ([jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu)), the SONA student coordinator.
- You will have an opportunity to receive an extra 5 points (3%). The detailed requirements for this extra credit opportunity are posted on D2L under the discussion forum. You must complete your work independently and submit your post by **Monday, 6/23, at 11:59 PM** to receive full points.

## Grading Scale:

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4.0	90% and above	The only way to increase your grade is the extra credit opportunity. I will not adjust the grade because your score is close to the cutoff. If you believe that your grade is wrong due to my calculation, please let me know and I will check your grade again. <b><u>I will not curve your grade, and there will be no exceptions.</u></b> *There will be no credits for honors option in this course. PSY department doesn't offer this in summer courses.
3.5	85 – 89.99%	
3.0	80 – 84.99%	
2.5	75 – 79.99%	
2.0	70 – 74.99%	
1.5	65 – 69.99%	
1.0	60 – 64.99%	
0.0	59.99% and below	

## Grading Disputes:

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If a student disagrees with a grade, please email a justification for challenging the grade within one week following the return of the assignment/exam. We will then review this request. A student who finds a grading error (i.e., an addition error in total points, grade entry error, etc.) does not need to complete a written justification and should instead email me as soon as possible to correct the mistake.

## Make-Up Work for Legitimate Absences:

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Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, religious observances, etc.

- **Late Assignment/Missed Exam:** You should submit all assignments by the posted deadline. Please do not wait until the last minute to email me if you have any tech issues. **No late assignment/exam will be accepted unless you have a valid, documented excuse as described above.** Absence from an exam for any other reason will result in a **grade of 0** for that exam. I will not accept time zones, internet, or computer malfunction, etc. as an excuse. Exam dates are identified on the course syllabus. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the TA of circumstances that will result in you missing an exam as far in advance as possible. Official documentation will be required. Make back-ups! Then, make back-ups of back-ups!

## Academic Misconduct:

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Any form of cheating or plagiarism, which includes any form of using, completing, or submitting someone else's work or letting them use, complete, or submit yours is unacceptable. You are not allowed to use any artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, chatbots, text generators, paraphrasers, to complete any part of your assignments. Using AI tools is considered a form of academic dishonesty. **If any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, are discovered, you will receive a zero (0) on the assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean of Students Office.** Additional penalties may be imposed under repeated offenses, including a zero (0) in the course. There are no exceptions for ignorance of what is considered academic dishonesty, so please become familiar with university policies. Please visit this page from the Dean of Students Office to learn more about academic integrity, academic dishonesty, and helpful resources for preventing violations of the academic integrity policies (<https://www.deanofstudents.msu.edu/academic-integrity>).

Both students and faculty must be dedicated to the integrity of the academic environment per MSU's Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Spartan Code of Honor. In addition, the Psychology Department adheres to 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.

## Civility (Non-Academic Misconduct):

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Developing a successful online learning space requires extra attention to the way we engage each other. Our actions affect everyone in our community. Learning about human behavior may offer the opportunity to challenge and explore our own beliefs and we may find ourselves challenging other people's beliefs as well. Please remember that everyone is going to move through this material in their own way and from the lens of their own experiences, and if you challenge your classmates make sure it is with the goal of enhancing each other's learning.

## Limits to Confidentiality:

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Please note that the instructor of this course is a mandatory reporter. That means they are required to report all incidents of relationship violence and sexual misconduct that involve students, faculty, or staff, occurred at a University-sponsored event, or occurred on University property, and even if these are reported in course materials. Therefore, if you share such an experience with one of us, we will be required to share your name and the details of the disclosure to the Office of Inclusion and Equity (OIE) and MSU Police:

- *Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child*
- *Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment*
- *Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.*

OIE will include these facts, (not your name) in the University's statistics on sexual and domestic violence. They will also reach out to you via email with additional university resources. It is entirely your decision to use any of the provided services or even respond to the University's email.

- MSU Safe Place <http://safeplace.msu.edu/>
- NRC DV <http://www.nrcdv.org/>
- NNEVD <http://www.nnedv.org/> (517) 355-1100
- NCDSV <http://www.ncdsv.org/>
- MCEDSV <http://www.mcedsv.org/>
- No More <http://nomore.org/>
- RAINN <https://rainn.org/>
- The Joyful Heart Foundation <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/>
- Feministing <http://feministing.com/>
- Futures Without Violence <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org>

## Accommodations:

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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](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("VISA") form. **Please email or have RCPD send this form to Bing as soon as possible or at least one week prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.).**

## Resources for Students:

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Health and medical: MSU Student Health Services is open. Medical visits for MSU students are available at Olin Health Center. Call 517-353-4660, or more information can be found at [studenthealth.msu.edu](http://studenthealth.msu.edu).

Mental health/counseling services: Students in crisis should call 911, go to their nearest emergency room or call CAPS anytime day or night at 517-355-8270 and press "1" at the prompt to receive assistance from a crisis counselor over the phone. As a general rule, CAPS providers can only provide treatment services to students residing in Michigan due to licensing laws that govern the practice of our professional staff. However, consultation, referral and care management services are offered on a limited basis to students out of state to assist with connecting to local resources.

CAPS Connect: CAPS Connect is a consultation-based service for MSU students, aimed at reaching historically underrepresented groups, in which specific CAPS staff are assigned to unique student populations/areas of campus. CAPS Connect provides a place to talk about concerns. You can have someone listen to you and offer support, or you may prefer to receive expert suggestions about solutions and resources. Through brief 10-15 minute consultations, CAPS staff are able to listen, help students problem-solve specific issues, and develop a relationship that may transition into additional care when needed. For more information about CAPS Connect, visit

<https://caps.msu.edu/services/CAPSConnect.html>

# Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Assigned Readings	Exams	Assignments
1	5/13-5/19	Course Overview 1. Introduction to Biological Psychology 2. Functional Neuroanatomy	Chapters 1 and 2	Exam 1	Class Activity Quiz Discussion – Neuroimaging
2	5/20-5/26	3. Neurophysiology 4. The Chemistry of Behavior	Chapters 3, 4, and 5	Exam 2	Class Activity Quiz Discussion – Nootropics
3	5/27-6/2	5. Hormones and the Brain 6. Evolution of the Brain and Behavior 7. Life-span Development of the Brain and Behavior	Chapters 6 and 7	Exam 3	Class Activity Quiz Discussion – Juvenile Crime
4	6/3-6/9	8. Sensory Processing 9. Motor Systems	Chapters 8 and 11	Exam 4	Class Activity Quiz Discussion – End of Life Care
5	6/10-6/16	10. Sex 11. Homeostasis 12. Biological Rhythms and Sleep	Chapters 12, 13, and 14	Exam 5	Class Activity Quiz Discussion – Gender in Sports
6	6/17-6/23	13. Stress 14. Psychopathology 15. Learning and Memory	Chapters 15, 16, and 17	Exam 6	Class Activity Quiz Discussion – Memory and Forgetting
7	6/24-6/27	16. Attention and Higher Cognition 17. Language and Hemispheric Asymmetry	Chapters 18 and 19	Exam 7	Class Activity Quiz

# PSY 209 Summer I Calendar

	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THUR</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
W1	<b>May 13</b> <b>First day of class</b> Week 1 Lectures Open	May 14	May 15 <a href="#">Week 1 Discussion Post</a>	May 16	May 17 <a href="#">Week 1 Discussion Response</a>	May 18 <b>Exam 1</b> <a href="#">Activity Quiz 1</a>
W2	May 20 Week 2 Lectures Open	May 21	May 22 <a href="#">Week 2 Discussion Post</a>	May 23	May 24 <a href="#">Week 2 Discussion Response</a>	May 25 <b>Exam 2</b> <a href="#">Activity Quiz 2</a>
W3	May 27 Week 3 Lectures Open	May 28	May 29 <a href="#">Week 3 Discussion Post</a>	May 30	May 31 <a href="#">Week 3 Discussion Response</a>	June 1 <b>Exam 3</b> <a href="#">Activity Quiz 3</a>
W4	June 3 Week 4 Lectures Open	June 4	June 5 <a href="#">Week 4 Discussion Post</a>	June 6	June 7 <a href="#">Week 4 Discussion Response</a>	June 8 <b>Exam 4</b> <a href="#">Activity Quiz 4</a>
W5	June 10 Week 5 Lectures Open	June 11	June 12 <a href="#">Week 5 Discussion Post</a>	June 13	June 14 <a href="#">Week 5 Discussion Response</a>	June 15 <b>Exam 5</b> <a href="#">Activity Quiz 5</a>
W6	June 17 Week 6 Lectures Open	June 18	June 19 <a href="#">Week 6 Discussion Post</a>	June 20	June 21 <a href="#">Week 6 Discussion Response</a>	June 22 <b>Exam 6</b> <a href="#">Activity Quiz 6</a>
W7	June 24 Week 7 Lectures Open <a href="#">Extra Credit</a>	June 25	June 26	<b>June 27</b> <b>Last Day of Class</b> <b>Exam 7</b> <a href="#">Activity Quiz 7</a>	Have a nice summer break!	