Psychology 209  
Brain and Behavior  
Spring 2019  
C20 Snyder Hall  
Section 001, Tu/Th 12:40 PM – 2:00 PM

Instructor  
Yanli (Jeff) Lin – linyanli@msu.edu  
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM (or by appointment) in Psychology 157F

Graduate TA  
Erika Vitale - vitalee1@msu.edu  
Office Hours: Monday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (or by appointment) in Giltner 221B

Textbook  

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 deal with some of the ways that problems can arise in these neural systems and in the behaviors and mental processes that they regulate.

Schedule  
Below is a general overview of when we will cover course topics. I may adjust the schedule and material according to the pace of the course and the needs of the students. You will be notified of any changes as soon as they occur. Exam dates, however, will not change.

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Final Exam:  Wednesday, May 1st, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in C20 Snyder Hall

Attendance
It is your responsibility to attend class, no formal attendance will be taken. There will be in-class quizzes and activities that will directly affect your grade in the course. Exam material will also draw heavily from lectures. If for whatever reason you foresee class attendance to be an issue, you may want to reconsider your enrollment in the course. If you miss class, I encourage you to meet with your peers or utilize office hours to review the material that you missed.

Review Sessions
Exam review sessions will be held by the TA prior to each mid-term exam. The time and location will be announced in class and on D2L. They are completely voluntary, and attendance will not be monitored in any way, but they may help you learn the material.

For each review session, we will answer your questions but will not be giving prepared lectures. If there are no questions from students, we will end the sessions early. Again, these are not required but are meant to help you learn the material. Come prepared with questions!

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.

In-class quizzes and activities: (200 points)
During some class periods we will set aside time to do a short quiz or engage in an interactive activity about an issue in biological psychology that is relevant to broader sociocultural issues. For the in-class quizzes, you will answer some multiple choice or short-answer questions, and receive up to 20 points for each quiz. During activity sessions, you will be asked to participate in small group or classroom wide discussions. You will receive 20 points for participation. Altogether, there will be 12 unannounced quizzes and activities that will occur periodically throughout the semester. There will be no make-up opportunities; instead, your lowest two
Grades will be dropped. Therefore, only your top 10 scores will be counted toward your final grade for a total of 200 points.

Midterm Exams: 50 questions each, 4 points/question, (200 points/exam)
There will be four midterms that will cover material dealt with during lecture periods (lectures, discussion, etc.) or contained in the readings. They will be multiple-choice tests. **Bring your student ID with you to the midterms.** 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 upon request at the office hours of the TA.

Final Exam: 100 questions, 2 points/question, (200 points)
There will be a final exam that covers material dealt throughout the semester. It will be the same format as the midterms.

Extra Credit: (up to 30 points)
To facilitate learning and discussion, you can earn up to 30 points of extra credit by providing input during lectures. This can take form in asking a question, answering a question, raising a point of discussion, or simply expressing your views on a topic. You will receive 10 points of extra credit for each act of participation. If you elect to participate during a lecture for extra credit, you will be asked to record your name and PID at the end of class. You are encouraged to participate as much as you’d like, but extra credit will be capped at 30 points (3 acts of participation).

Overall grade:
20% - 200 points: Class participation (quizzes and discussion).
80% - 800 points: Exams (5 exams, 200 points each). Out of the 5 exams (4 midterms and 1 final), the lowest score will be dropped from your final grade. If you are satisfied with the grade you will receive based on the 4 midterms, you have the option of not taking the final exam.
(3% - 30 points): Extra Credit

Policy on grade changes: **I will adhere to the specified cut-offs.** Extra credit is the only way to increase your grade. Aside from clerical errors in calculating your grade, under no circumstances will I “round up” your grade, or give you special opportunities for extra credit. I kindly ask that you refrain from these requests, as there will be no exceptions.

Make-up Exams
No make-up exams will be scheduled during the semester. If you missed any one of the 4 midterms, you will need to take the final exam in order to have scores from 4 exams contributing to your final grade. Dropping the missed exam will allow you to focus on studying/reviewing the next exam, which will give you a better chance to improve your final grade. Also, your studying for each exam will not go to waste as the final is cumulative.

**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 are not allowed to provide individuals special chances to make up exams.**

The only way to schedule a make-up exam is if you have a valid, documented excusal. Documentation must explicitly state your name, reason of excusal, and date of absence (e.g., “This student was unable to take the exam on (date) because…”). The note cannot come from
someone in your family. You must notify me that you have a valid excuse by the end of the day on the date of the exam or you will not be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. There are no exceptions to these conditions.

If you cannot take the exam because of a religious holiday, required participation in a university-sanctioned event (e.g., university athletic commitment), or some other acceptable event that can be foreseen, you must notify me at least two weeks in advance of the exam date. Absence from an exam for any other reason (e.g., family obligation, job interviews, vacations etc.) will result in a 0 point grade for that exam.

Lastly, make-up exams must be taken within 1 week of the original exam date. To prevent cheating, students cannot review their test answers until everyone has taken the exam. Therefore, it is in the collective interest of the class that make-up exams are completed in a timely manner.

Office Hours
We are here to help you learn. We are all very happy to discuss with you a host of issues related to the brain and behavior and biological psychology more generally, 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. So, please come to our office hours.

Posting Power Point files
PPT files used for lecture will be posted after each lecture. However, this is not an online course, learning material posted on these PPT files without attending lectures will not suffice to get a good grade.

Grading Disputes
Your TA can help deal with any special problem related to exams and/or grades if they come up. The TA maintains all records of grades. Any questions pertaining to grades should be directed to your TA. If you have a disagreement with your TA about grading, you must bring it to my attention within one week of the day that you received the score.

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 or exam) 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. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the university policy on academic dishonesty. Ignorance is and will not be a valid excuse.

Accommodations for 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 (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact the instructor or the TA 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 session offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and I will contact you regarding time and location. 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.

**Limits to Confidentiality**
Please be aware that class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University’s student policies. However, all University employees, including instructors, cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues based on external legal obligations or health and safety considerations of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information (including your name and the details of the disclosure) to the Office of Inclusion 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.
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

The Office of Inclusion will reach out to you via a confidential email, to see if you would like to pursue legal action and to provide you with additional university resources. **You have the right to choose whether or not you would like to utilize any of these services or even respond to the university’s email.** 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 (http://counseling.msu.edu/).

**Email**
Please check your email and the course site regularly. During the course, we will email you with announcements and reminders. Email is also the best way to get a hold of us. Please be mindful of the following when emailing:

- If you have a question, determine whether it can be answered by reading the syllabus or looking on D2L.
- Use PSY 209 as the subject line to indicate that you are a student in the course. This also helps prevent emails from going into spam mail.
- Use proper grammar and spelling so your message or question is conveyed clearly.
- Sign your email with your full name so we know who you are.
- Please try to be considerate and polite.