

Brain and Behavior – PSY 209

When: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 9:50 AM

Where: 118 Psychology Building

Course Description

In this course we will discuss how the brain works to influence behavior, and how behavior and our environment alter the brain. This includes from basic physiological mechanisms, in which cells in the brain communicate with one another to allow all species to interact and navigate their environment, to more evolutionary advanced processes, which allow humans to use complex cognitive strategies. We will also discuss how mechanisms of the brain can go wrong and lead to maladaptive consequences and conditions, such as those seen in mental illness.

Instructor and Office Hours

Dr. Alex Johnson

Office: 205 Giltner Hall

Office hours: Wednesday 9:30-10:30AM (or by appointment)

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Graduate TA: Erika Vitale

Office: 309 Giltner Hall

Office hours: Thursday 4:30-5:30PM (or by appointment)

E-mail: vitalee1@msu.edu

Undergraduate Assistants: Doris Olekanma (E-mail: olekanm1@msu.edu); Mary Lockhart (E-mail: lockha65@msu.edu)

Reading Material

“Biological Psychology” 7th Edition, 2013, SM Breedlove and NV Watson, Sinauer press, available at the Student Book Store

The companion website to this textbook: <http://7e.biopsychology.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.

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 also 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 before or after each lecture.

Questions and Exam Preparation

ALL E-mail inquiries should be directed to Erika Vitale. 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: A review session will be held during TA office hours that precede each exam (i.e., 9/21 – 4:30-5:30pm; 10/12 – 4:30-5:30pm; 10/31 – 10:30-11:30am; 12/5 – 4:30-5:30pm). We will answer your questions, but will not be giving a prepared lecture. If there are no questions, the review session will end early. These review sessions are not required.

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. 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 at the office hours of the TA. **Be on time:** No exam will be given if you are late and a completed exam has already been turned in.

Final Exam: (75 questions, 3 points/question, **225 points**).

There will be a final exam that covers material dealt throughout the semester. It will be the same format as the midterms.

Class participation: (**60 points**).

There will be up to 10 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 a few sentences in response to a few questions about the issues discussed. Students will receive up to 10 points for participation in each discussion periods. There may be questions on midterms or the final exam that deal with material brought up during these periods of discussion. We may also have a quiz in class during the time when no class discussion is scheduled. You will be asked to take short-answer questions, and will receive up to 10 points for each quiz.

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

90-100% = 4.0	75-79% = 2.5	60-64% = 1.0
85-89% = 3.5	70-74% = 2.0	< 60% = 0
80-84% = 3.0	65-69% = 1.5	

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 make-up 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 you 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 TA. **Permission must be obtained immediately before or after the missed exam (within 1 day)**. There will be a 75 question final exam for all students AND a short answer/essay final for make-up.

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 instructors 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.

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.

Schedule

Date	Seminar	Reading
8/31	Introduction	Ch. 1
9/5	Functional Neuroanatomy: basic structures and regions	Ch. 2
9/7	Functional Neuroanatomy: basic structures and regions	Ch. 2
9/12	Functional Neuroanatomy: neurons and glial cells	Ch. 2
9/14	Neurophysiology	Ch. 3
9/19	Neurophysiology	Ch. 4
9/21	Neurotransmitters	Ch. 4
9/26	Exam #1	
9/28	Drugs	Ch. 4
10/3	Hormones and the Brain	Ch. 5
10/5	Evolution	Ch. 6
10/10	Development	Ch. 7
10/12	Taste, and Smell	Ch. 9
10/17	Exam #2	
10/19	Motor control	Ch. 11
10/24	Sex: Evolutionary, Hormonal, and Neural Bases	Ch. 12
10/26	Homeostasis	Ch. 13
10/31	Biological Rhythms and sleep	Ch. 14
11/2	Exam #3	
11/7	Emotion, stress and aggression	Ch. 15
11/9	Emotion, stress and aggression	Ch. 15
11/14	Reading session	Online material
11/16	Psychopathology	Ch. 16
11/21	Learning and memory	Ch. 17
11/28	Learning and Memory	Ch. 17
11/30	Attention and Higher Cognition	Ch. 18
12/5	Attention and Higher Cognition	Ch. 18
12/7	Exam #4	
12/12	Final Exam, room 118 Psychology @ 7:45-9:45 AM	