

Introduction to Psychobiology, Spring 2008 Psychology 101

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Course description: The main goal of this course is to provide you with a broad overview of the field of psychobiology. All behavior has a biological basis, as the central nervous system regulates behavior. However, the brain-behavior relationship is also a two-way street, as the chemical and anatomical structure of the brain is influenced by the environment. Topics that will be covered include structure of the central nervous system, development, behavioral genetics, sensory processes, learning and memory, emotions, and communication. As much as possible we will discuss the experiments that provide the insights into how systems work.

When: Tuesday and Thursday 2:10-4:00 PM

Where: 1227 Haring Hall

Recommended Text: Biological Psychology: An Introduction to Behavioral, Cognitive, and Clinical Neuroscience, 5th edition, Breedlove, Rosenzweig and Watson. The text will be a useful study guide but often contains greater detail than what will be covered in class. This same text is used by some upper division psychobiology courses.

Exams: There will be 3 exams and one cumulative final. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exams will cover material discussed in class and will focus on conceptual understanding, integration, and application of course concepts. Midterm exams will consist of 40 multiple choice questions. If your score on the final exam is higher than one of the 3 midterms, then your lowest midterm grade will be dropped and the final exam will count as 200 points. **Makeup exams will not be given for any reason.** If you miss an exam, the final exam will then count for 200 points. If you miss more than one exam, for any reason, you will get a zero for the second missed exam. It is to your advantage to NOT skip any exam unless it is an emergency.

Course Website: The course website can be accessed through SmartSite. The website will contain powerpoint presentations and some practice questions. Material covered in class, but not contained in powerpoint slides is considered fair game for midterms and final.

Grading Summary

Tests

Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Exam 3	100 pts
Final Exam	100 pts

If you score higher on the final exam than on one of the three midterms, your lowest midterm grade will be dropped and will be replaced with your score on the final exam.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Introduction to Psychobiology

	Relevant Chapter
1. Tues, April 1st – Biological aspects of behavior	1
2. Thurs. April 3rd – Structure and function of nervous system	2
3. Tues. April 8th- Organization of central nervous system	2
4. Thurs. April 10th – Evolution of nervous system	6
5. Tues. April 15th – Development of nervous system	7
6. Thurs. April 17th – Behavioral genetics	
7. Tues. April 22nd - Behavioral genomics	
8. Thurs. April 24th - FIRST MIDTERM EXAM	
9. Tues. April 29th - Auditory System	9
10. Thurs. May 1st – Olfactory System	9
11. Tues. May 6th – Visual System	10
12. Thurs. May 8th – Stress	15
13. Tues. May 13th – Emotion	15
14. Thurs. May 15th – SECOND MIDTERM EXAM	
15. Tues. May 20 th – Reproductive behavior	12
16. Thurs. May 22nd – Sex differences in behavior	12
17. Tues. May 27th - Learning and Memory	17
18. Thurs. May 29th- Spatial memory	17
19. Tues. June 3rd – Vocal communication	19
20. Thurs. June 5 th – THIRD MIDTERM EXAM	

FINAL EXAM, June 10th 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM