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Fall 9-1-2022

### PSYX 250N.01: Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

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# PSYX 250 – Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

## Fall 2022

### Course Location and Time

Live Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12:20 MST

### Instruction Information

Instructor: Amber Thatcher, MA

Email: [amber.thatcher@umontana.edu](mailto:amber.thatcher@umontana.edu)

Office hours: Wednesday 1-3 via zoom, and by appointment

### Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to the biological mechanisms of human and animal behavior and psychology. We will address the how, rather than the what and the why questions that most of psychology focuses on. We will explore how neurons are formed and function, and how they work together to produce behavior. We will dive into how the brain is structured and how it functions. This is a difficult course, but my goal is to make sure that all students walk away with a basic understanding of how the brain works.

### Suggested Text

Kalat, James W. (2013) *Biological Psychology* –12<sup>th</sup> ed. eBook

*Your digital course materials are provided by the University of Montana Bookstore through Moodle at a discounted rate the bookstore has negotiated on your behalf. Your specially discounted price is included with your course fee, but you have the option to opt out of the program to have that cost refunded to your student account. If for any reason you decide to purchase your materials elsewhere you can opt out of this program by the add/drop deadline on September 16th, 2022, 11:59PM MDT and you will receive the refund later in the term.*

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- Scroll down to the gray opt-out button and follow the prompts

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## Course Guidelines and Policies

### Drop Date

Beginning the 46<sup>th</sup> instructional day of the semester through the last day of instruction before scheduled examinations, [students must petition to drop](#).

### Cell Phones/Laptops

Cell phones are to be turned off during class. You can use your laptop to take notes but please do not use laptops for anything other than note taking/class activities.

### Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

### Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Office for Disability Equality](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the Office for Disability Equality (ODE), please contact ODE in Aber Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor or call 406.243.2243. I will work you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

## Course Goals and Objectives

1. Learn the different cells that compose the central nervous system (CNS).
2. Understand how electrical and chemical events cause neurons to influence the activity of one another.
3. Learn the basic anatomy of the CNS.
4. Gain familiarity with some techniques to study the CNS.
5. Learn the anatomy and physiology of the sensory and motor systems.
6. Gain familiarity with the anatomy and physiology of complex behaviors such as sleep, anxiety, reinforcement, memory and language.

## Tests/Grades

Grades will be based on the 3 best test scores (equally weighted) and participation points. 89-100%=A, 79-88%=B, 69-78%=C, 59-68%=D, 58% and below=F. Tests will be timed.

Test 1 covers chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4. Test 2 covers chapters 5, 6, and 7. Test 3 covers chapters 8, 11, 12, and 13. Test 4 is an optional comprehensive final exam. The format for all tests will be 50 multiple-choice questions. A plus/minus grading system will not be used.

Participation points will be available each day of class and the assignment will be announced during the lecture. Assignments will consist of a discussion post or a brief task due at midnight that same day. These assignments will be graded as either 1 point (submitted on time), 0.5points (submitted late) or 0 points (no submission).

Extra Credit will be awarded for participation in SONA Research. Each research credit earned will count for a 0.5% increase in your overall grade and you can earn up to a 5% increase (which would equate to 10 research credit hours). In order to participate in research you must [set up a SONA account](#). Please make sure that you enter your [firstname.lastname@umontana.edu](mailto:firstname.lastname@umontana.edu) account information and NOT your NetID.

### **Make-up Policy**

Make-up exams are not permitted unless a doctor's note for illness of some other formal documentation on an emergency is provided. In addition, you must contact me via email prior to the exam that you will miss the exam. The final exam is optional; grades are based on the 3 best scores. If you have to miss a scheduled exam, the final can serve as the make-up for the missed test. The final can also be used to substitute for a score on an earlier exam. In addition, because the final exam is comprehensive, it offers you the opportunity to review and master a previous section if you did not do as well as you would have liked on an earlier test.

### **Lectures and Reading Assignments**

You will be responsible for all information from the lectures as well as the text—including material in the reading assignments not covered in class. Regular attendance is critical. Please be sure to keep up with your reading and attend lectures. Important announcements will be made throughout classes.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Suggested Readings
8/31	Syllabus Overview and Intro	Syllabus
9/1	Finish Intro – Begin chapter 1	
9/6	Chapter 1	Section 1.1
9/8	Chapter 1	Section 1.2
9/13	Chapter 2	Section 2.1
9/15	Chapter 2	Section 2.2
9/20	Chapter 3	Sections 3.1 and 3.2
9/22	Chapter 3	Section 3.3
9/27	Chapter 4	Sections 4.1 and 4.2
9/29	Chapter 4	Section 4.3
10/4	<b>REVIEW DAY</b>	
10/6	<b>TEST 1</b>	
10/11	Chapter 5	Sections 5.1 and 5.2
10/13	Chapter 5	Section 5.3
10/18	Chapter 6	Sections 6.1 and 6.2
10/20	Chapter 6	Section 6.3
10/25	Chapter 7	Section 7.2
10/27	Chapter 7	Section 7.3
11/1	<b>REVIEW DAY</b>	
11/3	<b>TEST 2</b>	
11/8	Chapter 8	Sections 8.1 and 8.2
11/10	Chapter 8	Section 8.3
11/15	Chapter 11	Section 11.1, Pages 371 to 379 and section 11.3
11/17	Chapter 12 and 13	Section 12.1 and 13.1
11/22	Chapter 13	Section 13.2
11/29	Chapter 13	Section 13.4
12/1	<b>REVIEW DAY</b>	
12/6	<b>TEST 3</b>	
12/8	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM	Optional
12/12	FINAL EXAM	10:10 – 12:10    Optional