

Contact Information

Course Description.

This course examines the biology of brain and behavior: the underlying molecular and cellular mechanisms, anatomy of the nervous system, interaction between genes and environment, and evolutionary pressures. These are covered in topics within psychology such as: sensation and perception, emotion, memory and learning, sex and gender, consciousness, addiction, and disorders to name a few.

Class Format: This course is full semester face-to-face course which means we are in class for two 80 minute blocks each week for the whole semester, and you have at least an equal amount of work to do outside of class.

Course Learning Objectives. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the structure and function of the nervous system on anatomical, cellular, and molecular levels.
- Relate the structure and function of the nervous system to many of the behaviors and mental processes covered Introduction to Psychology courses.
- Describe the more common techniques and methods used to study the structure and function of the nervous system, understanding the strengths and limitation of the scientific method as it relates to brain and behavior.
- Identify the means by which the nervous system adapts itself to the environment throughout development.
- Characterize evolution by natural selection and how that relates to brain and behavior.
- Apply how physiology and biology relates to mental health issues.
- Outline a brief history of philosophy regarding the nature of mind.
- Evaluate the ethics around research and technological innovations in biopsychology.

Prerequisites: Students are required to have successfully completed PSY 1010: General Psychology or equivalent prior to the beginning of the course. Completion of English composition requirements is strongly recommended.

Help!

Office Hours. See above contact information. [Watch this video on the importance of office hours.](#)

Email. Use Canvas messaging for all correspondence regarding the class when possible. You can expect a response within 1-2 business days.

Phone. See above contact information. Canvas is strongly encouraged over voicemail.

Canvas. This course will make extensive use of Canvas. You will be able to access all necessary materials and turn in your assignments through Canvas. Let me know if you would like assistance getting acquainted with the system. Or see the document on additional resources for tech support. If you do not have

regular internet access, all campuses have computers available for student use and we can make arrangements if circumstances require.

Note: Canvas has a phone app but viewing Canvas on a phone or tablet will prevent you from using and viewing certain features. It is also your responsibility to ensure the assignment was uploaded successfully in the correct file format to Canvas on time.

Textbook/Readings.

Biopsychology: Fundamentals and Contemporary Issues

Version 1.0 By: Martin S. Shapiro https://catalog.flatworldknowledge.com/catalog/editions/shapiro_1-biopsychology-fundamentals-contemp-issues-1-0.

There will be additional required reading/viewing assignments provided on Canvas.

Grading & Evaluation.

Tests. There will be 4 non-cumulative exams during the semester worth 10 points each. They will cover material only from the previous test, although many concepts build upon each other. Tests can be comprised of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. Material that is covered in *both* readings and class will be emphasized. They will be taken in class and only your handwritten notes and RAs can be used. The lowest score will be dropped. **No late tests or make ups are accepted.**

PEP Points. PEP stands for Participation, Effort, and Preparation. PEP is collected in a variety of ways such as attendance, reading quizzes, discussion posts, small group activities, individual activities, small homework assignments that total 30 points. Everyone gets a free 3 point boost at the end to account for missed points.

Reading Assignments. You will submit 13 handwritten Reading Assignments on Canvas most weeks based on the reading for that upcoming classes. They are each worth 2 points. You get two “freebies” where your lowest two scores at the end of the semester will get dropped. **No late submissions or make ups are accepted.**

Fishbowl Discussions. You will participate in two fishbowl discussion with your fellow students where you discuss the biopsychology related to controversial topics here in Utah. Each discussion has a small research paper due before the discussion. Each is worth 8 points. **No late submissions or make ups are accepted.**

Flair Points. There is only one way to earn extra credit. You may earn up to 2 Flair points (2% of your grade). This is done by going above the minimum and participating in approved school and community events that relate to psychology and related science. If you have suggestions for events, let me know in advance for consideration. Opportunities will be announced in class and on Canvas. You get 1 point per each event attended.

Break down:

3 out of 4 Tests at 10 points each= 30
12 out of 13 Reading Assignments at 2 points each= 24
PEP Points, free 3 point boost= 30
2 fishbowls at 8 points each= 16
Flair Points at up to 2 points
Total 102/100 points.

Final Grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

93+ is an A, 90-92 is an A- 87-89 is a B+, 83-86 is a B and so on....Until below 60 is an E

Class Etiquette

I ask that students please help support an effective learning environment by adhering to the following general guidelines for class behavior.

Due to the nature of some of the subject matter, we will occasionally touch on uncomfortable and controversial subjects. I will do my best to forewarn the class of any potentially triggering material in advance. I hope for quality discussion of these with critical analysis and quality introspection. And I require the utmost of respect for other viewpoints and opinions. So please be mindful of these guidelines to create a productive and safe space in our class:

-Comfort Zone: Step a little out of your comfort zone.

-The Vegas Rule: Like Las Vegas, any personal disclosure that happens here, stays in here.

-Oops and Ouch: We want to acknowledge the intent of the words that are said while also addressing the impact those words might have on others.

-Facts. You are entitled to opinions based on logic, reason, evidence. But you are not entitled to your own facts.

-No audio or visual recording in the of class materials unless approved by the DRC.

- Be present. While on-task laptop and phone use is approved, distracting use (social media, other homework, video games, etc.) is disrespectful and disruptive.

-Note that every faculty member has the right to remove any student from the course whenever a student has compromised the instructors' ability to teach and/or other students' rights to learn.

Academic Honesty. Plagiarizing, cheating, or violating other standards of academic behavior will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in academically dishonest behavior will receive an "F" for the course grade. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported for college-level disciplinary proceedings, the results of which can include probation, suspension, expulsion, the assignment of HV (honors violation) to the student's permanent transcript, etc. Representing output from ChatGPT or any other type of automated large language model is considered cheating. Anti-plagiarism software will be utilized to screen all submitted work in this course.

The complete policy is available here: https://www.slcc.edu/policies/policies/student_affairs/8.1.050.aspx

Extensions & Make-Ups. For any a significant issue, please contact me to discuss making up a missed work. Advance notice and/or appropriate documentation (e.g., written notification from a treatment provider) may be required and any make up is at my sole discretion. For assignments, late policies vary but involve heavy penalties or are not accepted.

Additional Resources

Also see Additional Resources and Institutional Syllabus pages on Canvas for other helpful SLCC resources and community education and mental/physical health support.

PSY 2710 Fall 2024 Course Schedule.

This is tentative. It may change, but we will follow this road map. All changes and further detail will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to pay attention to what we are covering next. You will be held accountable for doing the reading and assignments prior to class.

Week	Notes	Module Topics	Due
1. 8/19	Class Begins 8/20	History and Introduction	Get Textbook! Explore Canvas!
2. 8/26	Last Day To Add 8/28	Evolution	RA 1
3. 9/2	Labor Day No Classes 9/2	Research Methods	RA 2 Fishbowls Sign Up
4. 9/9	Last Day To Drop 9/10	Functional Anatomy	RA 3
5. 9/16		Neuron Communication	RA 4 Test 1 9/17
6. 9/23		Psychopharmacology and Addiction	RA 5
7. 9/30		Development	RA 6
8. 10/7		Learning and Memory	RA 7
9. 10/14	Fall Break No Classes 10/17-10/20		Test 2 10/15
10. 10/21	Last Day To Withdraw 10/22 No Class 10/24	Sensation and Perception	RA 8
11. 10/28		Food and Sleep	RA 9
12. 11/4		Sex and Gender	RA 10 Test 3 11/5
13. 11/11		Emotions and Stress	RA 11
14. 11/18		Mental Health	RA 12
15. 11/25	Thanksgiving Break No Classes 11/27-12/1	Consciousness	RA 13
16. 12/2	Reading Day 12/6	Catch Up	Flair Points Due 12/6
17. 12/9	Finals Week No Classes	https://www.slcc.edu/schedule/final-exam-schedule.aspx	Test 4 see Final Exam schedule for time/date