

Fall 2015

PSYC 3320

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University of New Orleans

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Introduction to Biopsychology – PSYC 3320 (001)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM to 10:45 PM
Geology & Psychology Room 2013

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-1, 1.30-4.30
Thursdays 11-12.30

Student Learning Outcomes: At the completion of this course, my hope for each of you is that you:

- 1) Further develop your knowledge and understanding of the biological underpinnings of mammalian behavior, cognition, perception, motivation, and emotion with a particular focus on humans.
- 2) Recognize that biological psychology encompasses and integrates a wide range of scientific domains including neuroscience, anatomy, chemistry, endocrinology, pharmacology, physiology, pathology, and evolutionary biology.
- 3) From this integrative perspective, be able to explain and describe the structure, organization, and function of the nervous system in the context of the rest of the body and, how these systems interact to give rise to complex behaviors.
- 4) Understand how perturbations in these systems may give rise to pathology.

Required Materials:

Textbook: Pinel, J.P.J. (2014). *Biopsychology* (9th Edition). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Class Prerequisites: To take this course, you must be eligible to enroll in Mathematics 1115 and English 1157 or have credits in Mathematics and English at the college level. You also must have successfully completed the following courses prior to taking this course: Psychology 1000 or Psychology 2200 (Educational Psychology) or Biology 1083 or Biology 1303. Please refer to the University of New Orleans Undergraduate/Graduate Catalogue for further details.

Course Website: Grades, class announcements, supplemental information, and **partial copies** of lecture slides will be posted on UNO's Moodle. (<https://uno.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>) If you need help accessing Moodle, go to: <http://www.uno.edu/moodle>.

Evaluation: I reserve the right to change the format of the syllabus, tests, paper, and/or exam. You are responsible for the entire text and all class material, regardless of whether or not you attended class. Students are responsible for both the lecture material and assigned readings, with roughly equal weighting. If you miss a class, it's up to you to get the notes from a classmate.

The test and examination will consist of diverse question formats, including true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and brief essay questions at the instructor's discretion. Grades will be assigned according to the following convention: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 0-59%. Appeal procedures for mid-session tests and assignments are strictly structured, as will be explained in class.

There are no make-up tests in this course. The quizzes can only be completed at the times indicated, so plan to attend. There can be no make-up tests or special sessions for any student without formal Disability Accommodations (see below for more information). Students with valid and documented reasons for missing a test or an assignment must consult the Dean of Studies office for their faculty. If, and *only if*, there is adequate written justification for missing the test or assignment deadline, such students will normally have their grades proportionately re-weighted, increasing the relative

contribution to their final exam.

- 1) **Quizzes (30%):** There are 18 multiple-choice quizzes each with 15 multiple choice questions to motivate your study and test your knowledge of the material. Quizzes are to be completed weekly on Moodle. **You will have 25 minutes to complete each quiz once you start.**
- 2) **In-class Exams (40%):** There are 4 exams each testing your mastery of multiple inclusive chapters in blocks of 4 or 5 (eg. chapters 1-5, 6-9, etc.). Question formats include: multiple-choice, free recall, drawing and/or labelling diagrams, and micro essays. These quizzes will make up **40%** of your grade.
- 2) **Short Essay (20%):** This will be a brief (i.e. four (4) double-spaced pages) research proposal based on a recent paper published in a peer-reviewed journal from those supplied on the course Moodle page. This proposal should follow the instructions outlined on page 4 of this syllabus. The proposal is due on **November 17th by 11:59 pm**. This will make up **20%** of your final grade. There will be a late submission penalty of **5%** to your grade (to a maximum of 20%) per day late. You must submit **both a paper copy and a digital version** by email to Dr. Beaton (ebeaton@uno.edu) with a carbon copy email to Ms. Marais (amarais1@uno.edu).
- 4) **Attendance (10%):** Class attendance is compulsory and attendance will be taken at all classes. Attendance will make up **10%** of your final grade. Please be on- time, but *please come to class even if you are going to be late! I'd rather that you came to class late than skip it. It's up to you to make sure you sign the attendance sheets.* You cannot ask a friend to sign in for you nor can you sign in and then just leave. I use sources besides the textbook, and you will miss valuable and testable information if you do not attend class. Only partial lecture slides will be posted online. You will need to fill in the missing information if you decide not to take detailed notes in-class.

Disability Accommodations: It is University of New Orleans policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. If you need accommodations for disabilities, you must contact the *Office of Disability Services* prior to discussing your individual needs for accommodation with your instructors.

Stuff that I know you know but will say anyway for the record: Read the assigned material before the class when it will be discussed. Turn off your cell-phones during lectures, and do not bring them or anything else to exams except something to write with. Be present in mind and not just in body. Talking in class (except in the context of in-class discussions), text messaging, or doing homework for other classes is not cool. I will ask you to leave if your behavior is affecting others' ability to learn or enjoy the class. Discussion and debate are encouraged, but please be respectful of others in your discourse. As stated above, come to class even if you have to be late. When you email me or the TA, please use your UNO account (or at least put your full name in the message so we know who we are communicating with). My spam filter is very conservative. It may be a good time to retire your 'supercool1992@noprivacymail.com' handle anyway.

Academic Dishonesty: You are to conduct yourself according to the principles of academic integrity as defined in the statement on Academic Dishonesty in the *UNO Student Code of Conduct*. Any student or group found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall have their case turned over to the *Office of Student Accountability and Advocacy* for disciplinary action, which may result in severe penalties including indefinite suspension from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not

limited to: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation, and being an accessory to an act of academic dishonesty. Examples of misrepresentation and cheating include using someone else's *i*-clicker for them or signing them into class when they are actually not present.

You should be prepared to show a valid picture I.D. (e.g. driver's license, military I.D., school I.D.) when writing your exams. For your written assignment, we will verify the uniqueness of your work using metadata search engines and other means to detect plagiarism. Instructors of other courses with similar assignments may be consulted. A personal interview with you may be requested as part of the evaluation of the work. You must maintain secure paper and digital copies of your written assignments in the very unlikely event that the copy you passed in was eaten or misplaced.

Schedule of Topics and Readings (Lecture dates and specifics are approximate and may be subject to change.)

8/20: *General Introduction, What is Biopsychology?* – Read Pinel: Ch. 1 + **Chapter 1 Quiz on Moodle**

8/25: *Foundations: Evolution, Experience, Genetics and Epigenetics* – Read Pinel: Ch. 2

8/27: *Foundations: Evolution, Experience, Genetics and Epigenetics* – Read Pinel: Ch. 2 + **Chapter 2 Quiz on Moodle**

9/01: *Anatomy* – Read Pinel Ch. 3

9/03: *Anatomy* – Read Pinel Ch. 3 + **Chapter 3 Quiz on Moodle**

9/08: *Neurons, Synaptic Transmission, and Neurotransmitters* - Read Pinel: Chapter 4

9/10: *Neurons, Synaptic Transmission, and Neurotransmitters* - Read Pinel: Chapter 4 + **Chapter 4 Quiz on Moodle**

9/15: *Research Methods in Biopsychology* – Read Pinel: Ch. 5

9/17: *Research Methods in Biopsychology* – Read Pinel: Ch. 5 + **Chapter 5 Quiz on Moodle**

9/22: **In-class Exam 1 on Chapters 1 through 5**

9/24: *Sensation & Perception: Visual System* – Read Pinel: Ch. 6

9/29: *Sensation & Perception: Visual System* – Read Pinel: Ch. 6 + **Chapter 6 Quiz on Moodle**

10/01: *Sensation & Perception: the Auditory and Somatosensory Systems* – Read Pinel: Ch. 7

10/06: *Sensation & Perception: the Gustatory and Olfactory Systems* – Read Pinel: Ch. 7 + **Chapter 7 Quiz on Moodle**

10/08: *Movement – the Sensorimotor System* – Read Pinel: Ch. 8 + **Chapter 8 Quiz on Moodle**

10/13: **In-class Exam 2 on chapters 5 through 8**

10/15: **NO MEETING – Mid-semester study break.**

10/20: *Development of the Nervous System* – Read Pinel: Ch. 9 + **Chapter 9 Quiz on Moodle**

10/22: *Brain Damage and Neuroplasticity* – Read Pinel: Ch. 10 + **Chapter 10 Quiz on Moodle**

10/27: *Learning and Memory* – Read Pinel: Ch. 11

10/29: *Learning and Memory* – Read Pinel: Ch. 11 + **Chapter 11 Quiz on Moodle**

11/03: *Hunger and Thirst* – Read Pinel: Ch. 12

11/05: *Hunger and Thirst* – Read Pinel: Ch. 12 + **Chapter 12 Quiz on Moodle**

11/10: **In-class Exam 3 on Chapters 9 through 12**

11/12: *Hormones and Behavior / Sex and Sex Differences* – Read Pinel: Ch. 13

11/17: *Hormones and Behavior / Sex and Sex Differences* – Read Pinel: Ch. 13 + **Chapter 13 Quiz on Moodle + PAPER IS DUE!**

11/19: *Sleep and Dreaming* – Read Pinel: Ch. 14 + **Chapter 14 Quiz on Moodle**

11/24: *Pleasure, Reward, and Drugs* – Read Pinel: Ch. 15 + **Chapter 15 Quiz on Moodle**

11/26: **No Meeting -- Thanksgiving Holiday**

12/01: *Emotion, Stress, and Health* – Read Pinel: Ch. 17 + **Chapter 17 Quiz on Moodle**

12/03: *Biopsychology of Psychiatric Disorders* – Read Pinel: Ch. 18 + **Chapter 18 Quiz on Moodle**

12/07-12/11: FINAL EXAM PERIOD – (TBA) **In-class exam 4 on chapters 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18 (16 will not be tested).**

Guidelines for the Essay Assignment

Topics: First, you are to choose one of the articles posted on the course website. Each of these recent papers is directly pertinent to the class material. Next, pretend that you are a new graduate student in the laboratory of the primary investigator heading up the research discussed in your chosen article. Why should that lab, or NSF, or the NIH or some other agency or foundation fund you and your work? You must propose ‘the next step’ in the research presented. You should not parrot the follow-up work often suggested in the discussion section of an article. Come up with something fresh that would keep you busy over the next year. You cannot work directly with any of your colleagues on this assignment. You should read and discuss other articles that have been published in any other year that may shed light on your focal article and bolster your ideas. Do not use secondary sources for this task such as your textbook – *your support articles must be primary sources from peer-reviewed scientific journals.*

Form: Your paper should not exceed four (4) double-spaced typed pages using **12pt Times New Roman, and 1 inch margins on all sides**, excluding references. Quality is more important than quantity. This being said, you should fully use the allotted space. State the purpose of your study and include a reference list. Cite only papers that you have read and use a standardized referencing system (e.g. APA, Chicago, etc.). **The deadline for the essay is November 17th by 11:59 pm with a 5% (of 20) penalty per day late starting at 12:00 am, November 18th.** It is up to you to maintain digital copies of your work in the unlikely event that a paper becomes lost or eaten.

Hints: 1) Get started early! 2) Think of the value and necessity of every word in your paper whilst you are editing it. For example, did I need to say both “value and necessity” and “whilst you are editing it” in the previous sentence, or can you convey the same message more simply? Cutting extraneous words adds up over the course of an essay and adds to the conciseness of your work. 3) Even though you cannot work directly with another student on this paper, that does not mean that you cannot talk to them about your ideas or have them help you edit for clarity, punctuation, and flow. 4) There is also tutoring and writing help from a variety of sources including the Psychology Club and Psi Chi peer mentors (GP 2051; email: psichi@uno.edu) and many resources in the Undergraduate Lounge (GP 2026). Make use of office hours. 5) Things that affect your grade on this assignment: appropriateness of your ideas in the context of the course, the quality of your library work, organization and clarity, accuracy in referencing, the cohesiveness of your arguments, and indications of original thought versus simple summarizing. 6) Please be objective and scientific – avoid jargon, unsubstantiated opinion, sentiment, colloquial speech, and personal information.