

## PSY 220K: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOBIOLOGY

Instructor: Barry Hurwitz, Ph.D.  
Class Time & Location: Monday & Wednesday 6:25-7:40 pm in room #536 Flipse Building  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 7:40-9:00 pm, or by appointment  
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**Course Prerequisite:** C- grade of higher in PSY 110 Introduction to Psychology

**Course Description:** Psychobiology, or biological psychology, is the application of the principles of biology, in particular neurobiology, to the study of mental processes and behavior in human and non-human animals. In this course, we will survey nervous system structure and function and biological factors that provide the basis for control, development, sensation and perception, motivational states, sleep, emotion, learning, memory, and psychological disorders.

**Student Learning Objectives:** By the end of this course student will know more about the answers to questions such as how humans see, smell, hear, feel (physically and emotionally), and think and learn, and the neurobiological basis for these functions. The semester will begin with a review of the microscopic workings of the cell, including basic neuroanatomy and functional physiology, and continue to a more macroscopic study of the senses, behavior, higher order mental processes, and finally psychological disorders. We hope that the semester will excite, encourage, and prepare students for future study in the "brain and behavioral sciences".

**Text:** Kalat, J.W. (2012). *Biological Psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

**Lecture Do's and Don'ts:** Reading the assigned textbook material before it is covered in lecture is highly recommended. Lecture slides, class notices, and grades from exams will be posted on Blackboard. Using the text and lecture slides during class is encouraged. If you will have difficulty being on time (e.g., the class before this is on the other side of campus), please let me know in advance via email. Independent material from the lectures will be used to supplement the material from the textbook. When you miss a class, you may be missing material that you cannot pick up by reading the text. Therefore, if you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate.

Cell phone use is not permitted in class. Phones should be turned off upon entering the classroom. Using cell phones or computers to surf the net or handle email in class is distracting to those around you, is inconsiderate behavior, and at the instructor's discretion, you may be asked to leave the class.

Use of computers is permitted for note taking or viewing lecture slides only.

**Course Grading:** 100% of your grade will be from exams. Exams will be based on information from the text and lectures. The grade levels to be used are standard [e.g., A- = 90.0 to 92.9%].

- There will be 3 exams (including the final), each worth about 33.3% of your grade.
- Test format will be multiple-choice and fill-in the blank. Material for exams will not be cumulative.
- Test dates may vary from the planned schedule. Dates will be finalized one week in advance.
- Academic alerts will be sent to students with grades of D or below at a mid-term point.
- An Extra Credit grade incentive is offered via bonus questions on exams [up to 8% of total grade]. In addition, extra credit will be given based on attendance. Attendance will be taken randomly from now until the end of the semester. If your class attendance is 75% or better, you will receive an extra 2% added to your final grade. No other form of extra credit is available.

## PSY 220: Tentative Schedule of Topics & Tests

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>	
Mon., 1/11	Orientation, Brief History & Introduction		Ch. 1
Wed., 1/13	Nerve Cells and Impulses		Ch. 2
Mon., 1/18	<b>MLK Day</b>		
Wed., 1/20	Nerve Cells and Impulses		Ch. 2
Mon., 1/25	Synapses		Ch. 3
Wed., 1/27	Synapses		Ch. 3
Mon., 2/1	Nervous System Structure & General Function		Ch. 4
Wed., 2/3	Nervous System Structure & General Function		Ch. 4
Mon., 2/8	Brain Bowl		
Wed., 2/10	<b>EXAM I</b>		
Mon., 2/15	Development and Plasticity of the Brain		Ch. 5
Wed., 2/17	Development and Plasticity of the Brain		Ch. 5
Mon., 2/22	Vision		Ch. 6
Wed., 2/24	Vision & Other Sensory Systems		Ch. 6, 7
Mon., 2/29	Movement		Ch. 8
Wed., 3/2	Movement		Ch. 8
Mon., 3/7	<b>Spring Recess</b>		
Wed., 3/9	<b>Spring Recess</b>		
Mon., 3/14	Wakefulness and Sleep		Ch. 9
Wed., 3/16	Brain Bowl		
Mon., 3/21	<b>EXAM II</b>		
Wed., 3/23	Internal Regulation		Ch. 10
Mon., 3/28	Emotion		Ch. 12
Wed., 3/30	Emotion		Ch. 12
Mon., 4/4	Learning and Memory		Ch. 13
Wed., 4/6	Learning and Memory		Ch. 13
Mon., 4/11	Cognitive Function		Ch. 14
Wed., 4/13	Cognitive Function		Ch. 14
Mon., 4/18	Psychological Disorders		Ch. 15
Wed., 4/20	Review		

**FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 to 10:30 pm, FLP 536**

**Religious Holy Day Policy:** The University of Miami, although a secular institution, is determined to accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days. Classes missed due to observances of religious holy days will count as excused absences only if you provide written notice of your intended absence(s) to me no later than the end of the first three meetings of our class. The ways in which missed tests, quizzes and other assignments can be made up after you return to class will be provided at a later date.

**Policy on Make-up Exams:** A make-up test will be provided for an excused absence only. You must notify the instructor via email in advance of the test for an excuse to be considered. The make-up test must be made up soon afterwards or during the final exam period, at the instructor's convenience. The make-up test content may differ in format and difficulty.

**University of Miami Student Honor Code:** All forms of scholastic dishonesty are prohibited, whether related to a written or oral examination, a thesis, term paper, mode of creative expression, computer-based work, or other academic undertaking. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and violating the professional ethics of research projects. Moreover, students are expected to warn fellow students who do not appear to be observing proper ethical standards and to report violations of this Code. In determining what constitutes academic dishonesty, a student should be guided by the purposes of the Student Honor Code, common sense, and information provided by the instructor. All undergraduate students are responsible for reading, understanding, and upholding this Code. All graded work requires a signed Honor Pledge (and will not be graded without it): **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid on this exam, paper, etc.”** An Honor Code violation is sufficient cause for a failing grade in the course and Honor Court action.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The ADA is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the Office of Disability Services at (305) 284-2374 at the beginning of the semester.

**Instructor-Provided Materials:** All rights reserved. It is a violation of University of Miami regulations and possibly Federal law to copy, duplicate, sell, and/or distribute in any manner, including but not limited to the internet, any materials copyrighted or otherwise authored and/or produced by the course instructor. Such a violation may be sufficient cause for a failing grade in the course, and Honor Court and/or legal action.