

**Professor:** Todd M. Hillhouse, Ph.D.  
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**Office Location:** Lindquist Hall 392  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Course Time:** Online  
**Course Website:** CANVAS – <https://weber.instructure.com/login>

Welcome Students!

I am excited about teaching Biopsychology. I hope that you find it a rewarding academic experience and also have fun with the material. Biological psychology, my field of interest, is a wide fascinating field and constantly growing as new discoveries about our brain and behavior are being made each day. While this is an online class, we will be covering the same amount of material as a face-to-face class. I will have video lectures posted on CANVAS so that you can hopefully have a similar lecture experience as the face-to-face class.

This syllabus has important information regarding the course outline, topics for each class, and grading. Please pay particular attention to the Course Outline as it lists when tests are scheduled and assignments are due. All other information is posted in Documents on CANVAS.

### **Course Objectives**

- Identify and define the basic terms and concepts of biological psychology (e.g. neuron, action potential, neuroanatomy, etc.)
- Explain and identify the interaction between the central and peripheral nervous system and the human body.
- Explain and identify how the brain/body interacts with the environment.
- Apply critical thinking skills by writing several assignments on research articles and content discussed for each learning module.

### **How to get the most out of each lecture?**

I have recorded the majority of my lectures from the Spring semester – There will be a few lecture that were not recorded; however, I will record my lectures this fall to fill in any missing videos. I will post these videos on CANVAS. You are assigned to read the chapters ahead of each lecture and take notes on your reading; then, add to your notes when you watch the video lecture. If you don't read the text ahead of time and take notes, it will be difficult to keep up during the lectures. There may be material in your text that will be on a test that I do not lecture on; so, again, read and study all the material in your text in addition to lecture topics. I will post the PowerPoints for each chapter that will be on the exams.

### **Email Communication**

The overall goal of college is to prepare you for the “real world” and help you secure a career. It is important that you learn to communicate in a professional manner whether that is in person or via email. If you contact me (or any other professor), please do so in a professional manner and include the

following information: legal name (first and last); in the subject box identify the purpose of the e-mail; identify your course & section number; be clear and courteous.

Example:

Hello Dr. Hillhouse,

I am John Smith, a student in PSYC 101 class section 902 that meets on Tues nights and I have a question about my quiz grade on the last lecture. CANVAS shows the grade as a 60 but it should be an 80. Would you please check this?

Thank you,  
John Smith

### Required Text

Biological Psychology (11<sup>th</sup> edition)

By James W. Kalat

ISBN-13: 978-1-111-83808-9

\*Any format of the text is acceptable (hardback, paperback, loose-leaf, or e-book)

### Assignments

- 1. Biopsychology News Blurb:** You will complete 1 of these writing assignments –worth 30 points each which will account for 5.5% (30 Points) of your overall grade. You will write a news blurb on a topic of your choosing as long as it relates to biopsychology. This mean it should reference the brain, neurotransmitters, drugs, etc. This news blurb needs to be written similar to a National Public Radio (NPR) or Scientific American article. Your news blurb needs to focus on scientific research (at least one peer review article), but written for the lay person. This should introduce and define the concept(s) in the first paragraph so the reader understands the topic. Please make sure this is a well written document as grammar, clarity, and content will determine the grade that you earn. This is not an opinion piece and thus should not include the work “I” and should be based on the scientific evidence. There are several steps that you need to complete for this assignment. 1) Pick a topic that you want to write about based on the material covered on the exam. 2) **Find at least one peer reviewed article** that will be discussed in this new blurb. 3) Write the news blurb – Needs to be 500-1000 words. **You need to have a reference page with APA citations.** There are references on Canvas to help with APA citations. You will lose points for not having the correct format. You do not need in-text citations. 4) Submit online.

The goal for this assignment is to have you critically think about the topics we are covering as well as learn to apply the concepts to real life situations. This assignment will also help with you develop your writing skills. Examples will be provided on CANVAS. **These are due the same date at the corresponding exam, but can be turned in early (which is recommended).**

- 2. Exams:** There will be four exams that will account for 71% (400 points) of your final grade. The exams are not timed. There will NOT be a cumulative final in this course, although each exam may have a few basic questions that were on a pervious test. All exams will contain multiple choice questions, short answers, and/or diagram questions. Tests are typically 60-75% multiple choice questions and 25-40% short answer/diagram questions. It is possible for an exam to have 5-10% of material that was on a previous exam. These questions will be basic knowledge

questions that you should know leaving a biopsychology course (especially on exam 2). I will post a detailed study guide before the exam – if you complete the study guide and understand the concepts you should do well on the test. If I cover it in lecture, then it will most likely be on the exam. I point out the short answer/diagram question on the video lecture, which is why it is important to watch those lectures. Each exam will have an extra credit question -- You will be able to write a question and give the answer for any material that was covered for the exam. This question can be worth 1-5 points – DO NOT leave it blank!

All four exams will open by 9/2/2019. There will be due dates for each exam; however, you can take the exams as early as you want. Thus, you can take an exam early if you will be out of town on vacation OR you can complete the entire course early if you so desire. **Please see the course schedule for exam due dates.** Exams will NOT be extended since you will have access to the exam for multiple weeks before it is due.

**The exams will be administered through Weber State Testing Centers or secure/approved proctors using ChiTester.** There are a variety of testing center locations, and you will be allowed to take the exam at any of the locations. For a list of the locations and testing center hours go to: <http://www.weber.edu/testingcenter/> You are responsible for knowing the hours of the testing center location you would like to use. To take an exam you must have a valid form of ID (driver's license, student ID) and show up to the testing center on the correct date(s). You will not be allowed to take the exam if you do not have an ID or if you show up after the posted and allowed hours. **Make-up exams will not be given.** Exceptions may be made providing there is documented evidence, which warrants an exception (e.g., medical emergency) and is at the professor's discretion

3. **Content quizzes:** You will take a short quiz prior to each exam (4 total) that will be worth 11% (60 points) of your overall grade. These quizzes are designed to help you prepare for the exam and will have question that are similar to what will be on the exam. All four exams are open at the start of the semester. **These quizzes will be due 3 days before the corresponding exam closes – See course schedule for specific dates.** These quizzes contained 12-16 questions and you will have 15 mins to complete the quiz. You will want to study prior to taking these quizzes as you will not have enough time to search for the answer. Additionally, these are supposed to help you prepare for you exam. **Content quizzes deadlines will NOT be extended since you will have access to the quiz for multiple weeks before it is due.**
4. **Research Article Quizzes:** You will be required to read (in detail) 4 research articles and take a quiz on each research article (check Course Outline for specific dates) which will be worth 7% (40 points) of your overall grade. These articles are important to the field of biopsychology. The quizzes will be 10-12 questions and you will have 10 mins to complete the quiz. Please make sure you read the article before you open the quiz as you will not have enough time to find the answers while taking the quiz. The goal for the discussion is to have you critically think about the article, which may include (but is not limited to) rational, methodologies, results, etc. All four (4) research article quizzes are open at the start of the semester. There will be specific due dates, but you will have the option to complete the quizzes early. **Research quizzes deadlines will NOT be extended since you will have access to the quiz for multiple weeks before it is due.**
5. **Research Article Discussion Questions:** In addition to taking a research article quiz, you are required to turn in five (5) discussion points/questions for each article. This will be worth 5.5% of your overall grade. Each set of discussion points/questions will be worth 7.5 points for each

research article (1.5 points per question; 30 points total for all articles). You will turn these questions in online. These need to be thoughtful questions about research design, rational for the study, interpreting the results, etc. Here is an example of a good question: “Why did the authors only give drug treatment for 3 days, when we know patients with depression have decreased monoamines for weeks or months at a time?” This question phrases the question and explains why it is a question. Here is an example of a bad question: “Why did the authors give drugs for a short period of time?” or “Why did they only use 8 people?” These questions are giving without any additional information. These last two questions would not earn you any points. Points will be award based on the depth of the question. The goal for the discussion is to have you critically think about the article, which may include (but is not limited to) rational, methodologies, results, etc.

**These discussion questions/comments are due the same day at the corresponding quizzes.**

6. **Extra Credit:** Each exam will contain an extra credit question that can be worth up to 5 points.  
**NEUROSCIENCE LECTURE SERIES:**  
**MISSED ITEM REVIEW:** You can receive partial credit (.25 points each question, which is 25% back) for multiple questions that you missed if you correct your exam (Short answer questions not included in missed item review). You will have one week from the day the exam closes. If you take the exam early, you will have to wait for the actual exam date before you can access your exam. **You are limited to completing three (3) missed item reviews. Due dates are posted on Canvas.**

**Due dates for missed item reviews: Exam 1 –10/1/2019; Exam 2 – 10/22/2019; Exam 3 – 11/19/2019; Exam 4 – 12/16/2019**

It is possible that the professor may provide other extra credit opportunities at his discretion. You must complete any extra credit by the due date to receive the extra points. **No make ups will be given.**

**Grade Distribution, Point Values & Late Policy**

- Decimal points of .5 or higher will round up to the next value. For example, an 89.5 will round up to a 90. I will never round down.

| <u>Numeric Score</u> | <u>Letter Grade</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 90-100               | A                   |
| 87-89                | B+                  |
| 83-86                | B                   |
| 80-82                | B-                  |
| 77-79                | C+                  |
| 73-76                | C                   |
| 70-72                | C-                  |
| 67-69                | D+                  |
| 60-66                | D                   |
| Below 60             | E                   |

- **Late policy: You will have multiple weeks to complete all of the assignments, and thus, late assignments will not be accepted.** Exceptions may be made providing there is documented evidence which warrants an exception (e.g., medical emergency) and is at the professor’s discretion. Computer or printer problems DO NOT qualify as a reason for failing to

submit assignments on time. Do NOT wait until 10 minutes before the assignment is due to upload the documents – sometimes there are issues with CANVAS. I will not accepted email assignments.

**How your grade will be calculated.** There are 600 total points for this class. The formula and the number of assignments may be adjusted by the instructor as necessary. We may end up with more or less points.

| Assessment  | Point Value     | Totals     | Approx % of Grade |
|---|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| Biopsychology News Blurb  | 30 points each  | 30         | 5.5%              |
| 4 Exams   | 100 points each | 400        | 71%               |
| Content Quizzes   | 15 points each  | 60         | 11%               |
| Research article quizzes  | 10 points each  | 40         | 7%                |
| Research article discussion questions   | 7.5 points each | 30         | 5.5%              |
| <i>(Again, subject to change!)</i>  | <b>Total</b>    | <b>560</b> | <b>100%</b>       |
| To calculate your percentage grade, simply add up your earned points and divide by the total possible points. For a midterm grade, divide your earned points by the amount <i>possible at that given point in time.</i> |                 |            |                   |

### Class Schedule, Reading Assignments, Exam dates

| Exam Number                                      | Topics   | Readings  |
|--|--|-----------|
| <b>EXAM 1</b><br><b>DUE</b><br><b>9/24/2019</b>  | The Major Issue  | Chapter 1 |
|  | Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses   | Chapter 2 |
|  | Concept of the Synapse, Chemical events as the synapse, and Drugs          | Chapter 3 |
| <b>EXAM 2</b><br><b>DUE</b><br><b>10/15/2019</b> | Anatomy of the Nervous System, Cerebral Cortex, and Brain Research Methods | Chapter 4 |
|  | Development of the Brain, Brain Damage, Plasticity After Brain Damage      | Chapter 5 |
| <b>EXAM 3</b><br><b>DUE</b><br><b>11/12/2019</b> | Vision and Processing, Processing Vision in the Cortex                     | Chapter 6 |
|  | Audition, pain, and chemical senses  | Chapter 7 |
|  | Control of Movement, Brain Mechanism of Movement and Movement Disorders    | Chapter 8 |

|  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| <b>EXAM 4</b><br><b>DUE</b><br><b>12/12/2019</b> | What is Emotion?, Attack and Escape Behaviors | Chapter 12 |
|  | Mood Disorders, and Schizophrenia             | Chapter 15 |
|  |   |            |

**\* Lecture schedule and Assignment due dates are subject to change**

### Important due dates

| <b>Assignment</b>  | <b>Due date</b>   |
|--|-------------------|
| Research Article Quiz #1 and Discussion questions/comments | <b>9/17/2019</b>  |
| Content Quiz for Exam #1                                   | <b>9/20/2019</b>  |
| <b>Exam #1</b>   | <b>9/24/2019</b>  |
|  |                   |
| Research Article Quiz #2 and Discussion questions/comments | <b>9/30/2019</b>  |
| Content Quiz for Exam #2                                   | <b>10/11/2019</b> |
| <b>Exam #2</b>   | <b>10/15/2019</b> |
|  |                   |
| Research Article Quiz #3 and Discussion questions/comments | <b>10/28/2019</b> |
| Biopsychology News Blurb                                   | <b>10/30/2019</b> |
| Content Quiz for Exam #3                                   | <b>11/8/2019</b>  |
| <b>Exam #3</b>   | <b>11/12/2019</b> |
|  |                   |
| Research Article Quiz #4 and Discussion questions/comments | <b>11/18/2019</b> |
| Content Quiz for Exam #4                                   | <b>12/5/2019</b>  |
| <b>Exam #3</b>   | <b>12/12/2019</b> |
|  |                   |

### UNIVERSITY & COURSE POLICIES

#### **Academic Integrity and Honesty Policy:**

Any academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student is caught engaged in academic dishonesty in this course, he or she risks failing the course and being subject to academic discipline including the imposition of university sanctions. For more information, please see the university policy on cheating, which can be found in the WSU Student Code, Section IV, Part D, Paragraph 2.

*For the purposes of this course, students are encouraged to work together. Discussing the assignment together will not be considered cheating. However, all submitted work should be original. Any student caught submitting identical or closely related work will at the minimum receive zero (0) credit for the assignment and at a maximum a failing grade in the course and be turned in to the appropriate university personnel. The types of activities that would be considered academic dishonesty are as follows: actively copying answers or otherwise using the work of another student on an exam; using the answers of another student on an assignment without having done the work yourself; soliciting other students or agencies to complete and submit work for you.*

#### **Students with Disabilities/Requests for Accommodations:**

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials in alternative formats upon request. To contact SSD by phone: (801) 626-6413 – Ogden; or, (801) 395-3524 – Davis.  
<http://www.weber.edu/ssd>

**Inclusivity Statement:**

Pivotal to Weber State University's mission is the need to embrace and value the diversity of its members. Acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual, we seek to cultivate an environment that encourages freedom of expression. Because the University is a community where inquiry is nurtured and theories are tested, every individual has the right to feel safe to express ideas that differ from those held by other members of the community. However, all persons who aspire to be part of our campus community must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Recognizing that the proper balance between freedom of expression and respect for others is not always apparent or easy to achieve, we must continually challenge ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of mutual concern, good will and respect. Therefore, expressions or actions that disparage an individual's or group's ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age or disability are contrary to the mission of Weber State University and will be not acceptable in classroom discussion.

**Use of Technology:**

The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Students using cell phones, tablets, or laptops for anything other than course work will be asked to leave. Students are permitted to use devices during class for note-taking and other class-related work only.

**Emergency Closure Statement:**

Due to the applied nature of this course, if for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, class will be cancelled and assignments will be adjusted accordingly. This may include dropping an assignment altogether or rearranging delivery of course topics to cover more in any one class. Look for announcements from the university on Weber e-mail or the website and from the instructor on the course Canvas page. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

**\*\*The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. By continuing in the course after reading the syllabus, you are indicating that you accept the terms of the syllabus.**