

Brain and Behavior

PSYC/BIOL 3322-002

Spring 2012 – MW 7:00-8:20 PM – LS 122

Instructor: Christopher T. McNabb

Offices: 507 Life Sciences Building

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00 pm– 3:00pm. Please make an appointment before you arrive.

Email: christopher.mcnabb@mavs.uta.edu

Before you email me, be sure to read this syllabus. As a general rule, I do not reply to student emails when the answer to their question can easily be found by reading the course syllabus.

Department Website: www.uta.edu/psychology

Required Textbook

“Biological Psychology” 10th edition by James W. Kalat. ISBN: 978-0-495-60300-9.

Recommended supplementary material: Biological Psychology (Study Guide).

This textbook is ***required***, meaning that you will need to read and study from it in order to pass the course. Students should make their own decision regarding the purchase of older editions and realize the risks inherent to that decision, especially since the test questions are based on the 10th edition.

Course Description

This course will provide a comprehensive review of physiological processes that underlie animal and human behavior.

Course Learning Goals and Objectives

Students are expected to learn how the nervous system works and to develop a functional familiarity with the underlying neural mechanisms that control our behavior. Topics will include anatomical structure, molecular mechanisms, sensory and motor systems, neurotransmitters, control of hunger, thirst, temperature, psychological disorders, etc.

Specific Course Requirements

This is an intensive course. Students are expected to know a lot of detailed information. Be sure to read your textbook before and after attending lectures. Reading lecture slides alone is not enough to make a good grade. When free tutoring is available, please take advantage of it as much as possible.

Course Business Communication

Primary communication will be through university email accounts, which will be treated as a formal channel of communication for the purposes of this course. You are expected to communicate with professors using professional diction, syntax, and formatting. In each email, you should identify yourself, use proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Do not use « text language » or associated abbreviations.

The use of Blackboard is also required in this course. Course grades will be posted on Blackboard. Go to <http://elearn.uta.edu> and login with your UTA Net ID and password. If you are unfamiliar with how to work within this system, contact the Help Desk in the Central Library. You must bring a photo ID with you. You can also email them for assistance at helpdesk@uta.edu.

Attendance

I expect you to attend class. Although attendance is technically not mandatory, students do not do well in this course unless they are present. Students who miss a class meeting, multiple classes, or portions of a class due to absence, tardiness or early departure will be accountable for all of the material that is covered during those sessions.

Drop Policy

No grade is given if a student drops a course before 5:00pm CST on the Census Date, Feb. 1, 2012. A student may drop a course with a grade of W until Mar. 30, 2012. Dropping a course after this date requires approval of the appropriate official.

Exams

There will be a total of four exams. The final exam WILL be comprehensive. **If you miss an exam, a grade of zero will be given.** There is no provision for taking a make-up exam in this course unless you have a University-approved excuse (see Catalog: http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#4). Each major exam will be multiple choice and cover all of the lectures, videos, assigned textbook readings, and other material listed for that exam (see Schedule in this syllabus). All course material merits inclusion on the tests. **Students arriving after the scheduled class start time on an exam date are not allowed to take the exam after the first completed exam is turned in.**

Missed Exams

Make-up exam requests will be approved ONLY when appropriate documentation is provided that confirms the student missed class for a University-approved reason (http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#4). Examples of such circumstances include funeral attendance, religious holidays, and serious illness. No information should be provided in a make-up exam request that is private or confidential in nature. A note from a friend or family member is not acceptable documentation. A request for a make-up exam must be made **in writing within one week of the missed exam. Any and all make-up exams will be taken during Final Review Week (the week before Final Exams) on Wednesday, May 2nd from 7:00-8:20 PM in LS 122.** There will be no opportunity to make-up a make-up exam.

The Final Course Grade

The final course grade will be the mean of the three highest exam grades. The lowest of the four exam grades will be dropped and will not be factored into the final course grade. The three highest exams will contribute equally to the final grade. The scores from each exam will be averaged and a letter grade will be assigned where $A \geq 90\%$, $B \geq 80\%$, $C \geq 70\%$, $D \geq 60\%$, $F < 60\%$. In accordance with FERPA and university policy, no information about grades will be sent through email.

Grading Format, Weighting/Point Value of Assignments, and Examinations

The grade for each exam will be the percentage of exam questions that was answered correctly. All exams are of equal weight. Rounding will be used in the calculation of each exam grade and in the calculation of the final course grade. This will consist of raising a decimal of 0.5 or greater to the next highest whole number. For example, a course grade of 79.5 will be rounded to 80 for a course letter grade of B. A course grade of 79.4 will not be rounded up and will yield a course grade of C. **This grading policy is not flexible under any circumstances.** No consideration for special circumstances will be given. The numbers will dictate the grade.

Borderline Grades Stay Borderline

Every semester some people score just below the borderline of the next highest grade. I have great sympathy for people who find themselves in that position, but raising those grades simply uncovers more people whose grades are near the new borderline. This situation makes everybody edgy. Therefore, the policy *must* be that borderline grades stay borderline. The University Grade Grievance Policy will be followed. (See Grade Grievance Policy in the Undergraduate Catalog.)

Course Evaluation

Student Feedback Surveys will be offered at the end of the semester by the University for student course evaluation.

Student Support Services Available

The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans With Disabilities Act – (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a graduate teaching assistant, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2) Replicating your own assignments from previous courses is also viewed as academic dishonesty.

The first instance of academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a **zero on the assignment** and a **report to the Office of Student Conduct**. A second instance of academic dishonesty will result in a **zero for the class** and **another report to the Office of Student Conduct**. A lack of knowledge concerning what constitutes academic dishonesty is not an excuse. Adopt the following academic honor code: *"I will not cheat and I will not tolerate those who do"*.

Schedule

- Chapter 2 Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses
- Chapter 3 Synapses
- Chapter 5 Development and Plasticity of the Brain
- Chapter 6 Vision
- Exam 1: Monday, February 20, 2012**
- Chapter 7 The Other Sensory Systems
- Chapter 8 Movement
- Chapter 9 Wakefulness and Sleep
- Chapter 10 Internal Body States

Exam 2: Wednesday, March 28, 2012

- Chapter 12 Emotional Behaviors
- Chapter 13 Biology of Learning and Memory
- Chapter 14 Cognitive Functions
- Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders

Exam 3: Monday, April 30, 2012

(Make-Up Exams: Wednesday, May 2, 2012)

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 8:15-10:45 PM