

Psyc 111: Introduction to Biological Psychology

Spring 2014 Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Furtak, Assistant Professor of Psychology

- M.S. & Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience from Yale University
- B.A. in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- My research interests focus on the neurobiology of emotional learning & memory.

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Office Hours: Thursdays 4:30-6:00pm and Wednesday by appointment.

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Course Description

Introductory overview of the psychobiological aspects of behavior. Emphasis is on the central and autonomic nervous systems and the endocrine system. Topics include physiological factors involved in sensation, perception, motivation, learning, emotion, social behavior, and maladaptive behavior. **Prerequisite:** PSYC 2; PSYC 8, PSYC 101 recommended. **Graded:** Graded Student. **Units:** 3.0.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text: Available at Bookstore.

1. "Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience Package", price: \$134.25. This is a package that includes MyPsychLab and the loose leaf version of the book "Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience", 8th ed, by Neal Carlson. You are responsible for purchasing both.
2. *Before you attend class* print out/download the syllabus and handouts from SacCT. Material will be posted regularly. **NO RECORDING OR PHOTOGRAPHY IN CLASS EXCEPT WITH THE EXPLICIT PERMISSION OF DR. FURTAK.**

Course Requirements

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to SacCT
- Access to Adobe Reader & Microsoft Office (available in campus computer)

lab)

Course Structure

This course consists of two class sessions per week on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10:30am to 11:45am. Class time will consist of lectures. In addition, it will be required that you take a weekly timed quiz between 7am on Thursdays and 11:59pm on Saturdays. You will have 15 minutes to complete quizzes.

SacCT Access

This course will have readings, quizzes and materials posted online through a course management system named SacCT. You will use your SacLink account to login to the course from the [SacCT login page](https://sacct.csus.edu/) (<https://sacct.csus.edu/>). In SacCT, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources.

To access this course on SacCT you will need access to the Internet and a supported Web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). To ensure that you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please run the [Check Browser](#) from your SacCT course. Refer to the SacCT Browser Tune-up page for instructions.

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with SacCT you can:

- Visit the SacCT [Student Resources Page](#)
- Review SacCT [Student Tutorials](#)
- Visit the SacCT [Student FAQ's Web Page](#)
- Submit a [SacCT Problem Form](#)

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcement or through SacCT email.

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Part 2: Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, the goal is for you to have a clear understanding of the fundamental topics in Biological Psychology and how they contribute to human and animal behavior. These include:

- i) the structure of neurons (brain cells) and how they communicate,
- ii) the organization of the nervous system,
- iii) the hierarchical organization of sensation and perception,
- iv) hormonal regulation of social and parental behavior,
- v) the components basis of learning and memory, and
- vi) the biological basis of mental illness.

Regular class attendance and completing reading assignments as assigned will be necessary for the successful completion of this class.

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Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

Important Note: This syllabus and due dates of assignments is subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check for and keep up with changes in due dates announced on SacCT. Assignment details will be explained in detail within each assignment posted on SacCT. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Furtak.

Lecture & Assignment Schedule			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Lecture Number</i>	<i>Topics & Assignments</i>
Tu, Jan. 28	1	1	Introduction and Brief Historical Background. What is Biological Psychology? READING: Chapter 1
Th, Jan. 30		2	The building block of the brain. Part I. Cells, synapses and synaptic transmission. READING: Chapter 2 QUIZ 1 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 1
Tu, Feb. 4	2	3	The building block of the brain. Part II. Cells, synapses and synaptic transmission. READING: Chapter 2
Th, Feb. 6		4	The Structure of the Nervous System. Part I. The central and peripheral nervous system. READING: Chapter 3 QUIZ 2 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 2
Tu, Feb. 11	3	5	The Structure of the Nervous System. Part II. The central and peripheral nervous system. READING: Chapter 3
Th, Feb. 13		6	The Structure of the Nervous System. Part III. The central and peripheral nervous system. READING: Chapter 3 QUIZ 3 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 3
Tu, Feb. 18	4	7	Psychopharmacology. Part I. Drugs and the sites of their action. READING: Chapter 4
Th, Feb. 20		8	Psychopharmacology. Part II. Drugs and the sites of their action. READING: Chapter 4

Date	Week	Lecture Number	Topics & Assignments
Tu, Feb. 25	5	9	Psychopharmacology. Part III. Drugs and the sites of their action. READING: Chapter 4 QUIZ 4 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 4
Th, Feb. 27		10	Exam 1: Chapters 2-4 note: Chapters 1 will not be on the exam
Tu, Mar. 4	6	11	Sensation and perception. Vision. Part I. How do we see the things in our world? READING: Chapter 6
Th, Mar. 6		12	Sensation and perception. Vision. Part II. How do we see the things in our world? READING: Chapter 6 QUIZ 5 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 6
Tu, Mar. 11	7	13	Sensation and perception. Audition. Part III. How do we hear our world? READING: Chapter 7
Th, Mar. 13		14	Sensation and perception. Taste & smell. Part IV. The chemical senses. READING: Chapter 7 QUIZ 6 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 7
Tu, Mar. 18	8	15	Reproductive Behavior. Part I. Sex, hormones, and parental behavior. READING: Chapter 9
Th, Mar. 20		16	Reproductive Behavior. Part II. Sex, hormones, and parental behavior. READING: Chapter 9 QUIZ 7 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 9
Tu, Mar. 25	9	Spring Break Enjoy!	
Th, Mar. 27		Spring Break Enjoy!	
Tu, Apr. 1	10	17	Exam 2: Chapters 6-7 & 9
Th, Apr. 3		18	Ingestive Behavior. Part I. Satiation, obesity and anorexia. READING: Chapter 11

<i>Date</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Lecture Number</i>	<i>Title, Assignments & Exams</i>
Tu, Apr. 8	11	19	Ingestive Behavior. Part II. Satiating, obesity and anorexia. READING: Chapter 11
Th, Apr. 10		20	Emotional Memory. Part I. The amygdala and emotional perception. READING: Chapter 10 QUIZ 8 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 11
Tu, Apr. 15	12	21	Emotional Memory. Part II. The amygdala and emotional perception. READING: Chapter 10
Th, Apr. 17		22	Learning and Memory. Part I. Synaptic plasticity and conditioning. READING: Chapter 12 QUIZ 9 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 10
Tu, Apr. 22	13	23	Learning and Memory. Part II. Synaptic plasticity and conditioning. READING: Chapter 12
Th, Apr. 24		24	Learning and Memory. Part III. MOVIE: Memory QUIZ 10 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 12
Tu, Apr. 29	14	25	Mental illness and the brain. Part I. Schizophrenia & Affective disorders. READING: Chapter 15
Th, May 1		26	Mental illness and the brain. Part II. Anxiety disorders & PTSD. READING: Chapter 15 QUIZ 11 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 15
Tu, May 6	15	27	Mental illness and the brain. Part III. ADHD. READING: Chapter 16
Th, May 8		28	Exam 3: Chapters 10-12, & 15
Tu, May 13	16	29	Mental illness and the brain. Part IV. Autism spectrum disorder. READING: Chapter 16
Th, May 15		30	Mental illness and the brain. Part V. Substance abuse. READING: Chapter 16 QUIZ 12 (online Thur. 7am to Sat. 11:59pm): Chapter 16

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Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

Visit the **Assignments** link in SacCT for details about each assignment listed below. (See Part 1 for more information about accessing tools and activities).

Points	Description
75 (25 pt Each)	1. <i>Exams</i> . There will be 4 exams, including a cumulative final examination. The lowest grade will be dropped. Thus, only the highest 3 exams will be counted toward the final grade. There will be <u>no</u> makeup examinations. If any of the exams are not taken due to absence, then the other 3 exams must be taken and no grades will be dropped. Exams 1-3 will be composed of multiple choice and essay questions. The final exam will be all multiple choice.
15 (1.5 pt Each)	2. <i>Quizzes</i> . A total of 12 quizzes will be given; quizzes are included in the schedule, see section 3. <u>No</u> make-up quizzes will be given. The lowest 2 grades will be dropped. Only the 10 highest grades will count toward your final grade.
10 (1 pt Each)	3. <i>In-class Assignments</i> . Over the semester, 10 assignments will be given in class on random days. These assignments must be completed during that class session. Credit will only be given to those students who are in attendance. Class attendance is <u>strongly</u> encouraged.
100	Total Points Possible

Late Work & Make Up Policy

Late submissions will not be permitted. There will be no make up exams or quizzes. If you miss an exam it must count as your lowest grade, which will be dropped from the calculation of your final grade. Additionally, missed quizzes must count toward the two lowest quiz grades that are dropped.

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines.

Viewing Grades in SacCT

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the SacCT Grade Book typically within 7 days. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points.

It is your responsibility to check these grades once posted. If you have a question or complaint about a grade posted on SacCT, then you must email Dr. Furtak within 7 days of the posted grade. In the email, please put in subject line "question regarding grade" and within the email make sure to state which assignment you are referring to and exactly where you believe a grading error was made.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	93-100%	Excellent Work
A-	90-92.99%	Nearly Excellent Work
B+	87-89.99%	Very Good Work
B	83-86.99%	Good Work
B-	80-82.99%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-79.99%	Above Average Work
C	73-76.99%	Average Work
C-	70-72.99%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-69.99%	Below Average Work
D	60-66%	Poor Work
F	0-59.99%	Failing Work

Important note: For more information about grading at Sac State, visit the academic policies and grading section of the university catalog.

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Part 5: Course Policies

Participation

Student participation in the classroom is strongly encouraged. If you don't understand a topic or if I am lecturing too quickly, other classmates will too. Please see Part 4 for grading relative to attendance (i.e. in class assignments).

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let Dr. Furtak, or the T.A.s, know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing Dr. Furtak, or the T.A.s, when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through SacCT unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if there is a documented medical reason. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 1 year.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Office of Services to Students with Disabilities](#) (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

"The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades."

Read more about Sac State's [Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures](#)

Definitions

At Sac State, "**cheating** is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means."

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. At Sac State, "plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution."

Source: Sacramento State University Library

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

Course policies are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in SacCT.