

PSY 3310, Biological Psychology, 3 Credits Spring 2019, Online

Course Description: Overview of the mediating role of the brain and other parts of the nervous system in behavior. Topics may include function of neurons, sensation, brain development, movement, sleep, reproduction, language, emotion, and psychological disorders.

Course Overview: This course begins with important theoretical perspectives on the brain and behavior, followed by the cellular mechanisms of the nervous system. We then explore the research methods used to study the brain and get a brief exposure to the gross anatomy and development of the brain. In the second part of the course, we evaluate the role of the brain in specific behaviors including sleep, motivation, reproduction, emotion, and abnormal behavior.

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Office Hours:	MW 9:00-10:30 am, T 10:00-11:00 am



Email

Please use your regular email software program to send email instead of D2L. Generally, I do not check my work email account over the weekend or on holidays. Questions or issues that arise during these times will be handled the next regular work day. During the week, you can expect a reply within 24 hours.

Course Materials

Biological Psychology, 13th edition (2019), by James W. Kalat.

Teaching Philosophy

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled" --Plutarch

Learning Objectives

1. Compare the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in biological psychology.
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of basic research methods in biological psychology.
3. Use scientific reasoning to interpret phenomena in biological psychology.
4. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.
5. Recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of individual differences related to biological causes.
6. Enjoy learning about biological psychology!

Chapter-specific objectives are listed in the description of each chapter module in Brightspace D2L.



Requirements and Grading

Requirement	Points	% of Final Grade
Quizzes and Exams (300 Points)		
Chapter Quizzes	250	50%
Final Exam	50	10%
Assignments and Activities (200 Points)		
Journal Article Critiques (2 x 40 points)	80	16%
Online Activities (5 x 10 points)	50	10%
Sleep Diary/Analysis	40	8%
Discussion Board Posts (10 x 2 points)	20	3%
Discussion Board Replies (10 x 1 points)	10	2%
Total	500	100%



Grading scale: A (89%), B (79%), C (69%), D (59%), F (<59%)

Chapter Quizzes

- **You may use your book, notes, Internet, and any other resources except other people when taking your quizzes. Collaborating with others on the quiz is considered academic misconduct.**
- Quizzes are designed to assess your fulfillment of the course objectives. Questions on the chapter quizzes are multiple choice and short answer from material covered in lecture and the textbook. The questions are based on the application of the information you have learned and will test your critical thinking skills.
- Chapter quizzes will be administered online. They will be available for 3 to 4 days after we complete the associated chapter in class. Quiz questions are randomly selected from a set of questions. Thus, you may end up with 2 questions that test similar concepts and you will not have the exact same questions as another student. Across all the quizzes, the average difficulty for everyone in the class will be very similar.
- As part of a cumulative testing strategy, each quiz contains questions from each of the prior chapters. As such, each subsequent quiz will have more questions and you will have more time to complete them.
- You will have two attempts at each quiz. Your grade will be the higher of the two attempts. The quizzes are timed, approximately 2 minutes per question. The timer begins once you open the quiz. Save each answer as you go. Don't wait until the end when you submit the quiz!
- After the quiz has been submitted, you can immediately view the correct answers to the questions you missed.
- The short answer question is the same for both attempts on every quiz. Thus, I will accept only your first answer on that question and will transfer your score from the first attempt to your second attempt (you don't need to answer it on your 2nd attempt). The short answer question is intended to assess your ability to analyze and evaluate information in a novel manner.

- If you have technical problems while taking a quiz, please complete the quiz at the next possible time. You may have a warning that your time has expired, but don't worry, your answers will be saved. Then, send me an e-mail explaining why your time went over. Brightspace D2L records all quiz times.
- Quiz deadlines will be adjusted for students with University-approved absences.

Final Exam

Similar to the quizzes, the final exam is comprehensive and will contain questions randomly selected from each of the prior chapters.

Online Exercises (ed.ted.com)

There are five online exercises available in D2L under the content folders corresponding to the chapters in which they appear. Each one requires you to view a short video (3-5 minutes), then complete a 5 multiple-choice item quiz. The online exercises are located at <http://ed.ted.com> and will require you to register (the first time) and login **prior** to completing the online exercise.

To access the multiple choice quiz, click on “Think” to the right of the video. Your performance on your **FIRST** attempt of the online quiz will count toward your grade. However, you can watch the video as many times as you want before you take the online quiz.

Journal Article Critiques

This assignment helps students gain skills necessary to read, interpret, and synthesize original research, which will be applicable in research methods, capstone courses, and other courses in the major.

Learning Objectives

1. Summarize, analyze, and evaluate research methods of articles published in peer-reviewed journals.
2. Integrate material learned in the course with current empirical research.
3. Use electronic library resources (Booth Library, Google Scholar, etc.) to improve information literacy.
4. Earn course credit through critical writing as a complement to taking tests or other assignments.



Furthermore, this writing assignment helps fulfill six of the [Psychology Department Learning Goals](#) (1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, and 3), which are based on the American Psychological Association's [Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major v2.0](#).

View the complete instructions in the D2L module titled “Journal Critiques.”

The minimal requirements for this assignment do not meet the requirements for papers submitted to the electronic writing portfolio (EWP).

Discussion Board Posts and Replies

For each chapter's discussion topic, you are to:

1. Contribute a discussion post of at least 125 words that describes how something in the chapter applies to your life. Your response must provide a clear connection between the course content and its application. It should not be a summary of the textbook or a list of things you learned or found interesting. Please do not disclose traumatic or exceptionally personal events that could make other students feel uncomfortable (e.g., divorce, abuse, personal health concerns).
 - a. A list of verbs that are often used in writing about the application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of material are found in this [table of Bloom's Taxonomy of educational learning objectives](#).
 - b. **Discussion posts are due the same day as the quizzes.**
 - c. You can earn up to 2 points for each chapter's post, where 2 points will be awarded for excellent application of the material, 1 point for modest application, and 0 points for poor application.
 - d. To promote originality, you will not be able to view other students' posts until you post your own.
2. Reply to one or more discussion postings made by other students **within 1 week of the chapter application deadline**. Your response should be a few sentences long, be stated in a supportive manner, and can contain questions for further clarification, alternative viewpoints, or your own personal interpretations of the material. Replies are worth 1 point for each chapter, regardless of how many replies you make.



Narrated PowerPoint Lectures

The PowerPoint lectures should supplement your textbook reading. They are not a replacement for the textbook, but they will have helpful information.

Most (**NOT ALL**) of the PowerPoint slides contain audio narration that you will hear while viewing the presentation in Slideshow mode. If there is accompanying narration, it will automatically start playing within a second or two after you advance to the slide. Some of the slides have a multiple-choice question to check your understanding. For these, you will need to click the mouse, or press spacebar (or right arrow-key) to advance to the next slide after you have taken time to answer the question to yourself. The correct answers for these questions are found in the notes panel of the slide (when not in "SlideShow" mode). However, sometimes I answer the question for you in the accompanying narration 😊.

EIU Students have free access to [download Office 365](#).

There are occasional text links in the PowerPoint lectures that will take you to other web sites. If you find a broken link in the presentation, please let me know which presentation and slide number.

Reading Schedule, Due Dates

Date	Topic
14-Jan	Introduction: Major Issues in Biological Psychology ed.ted: Can Robots be Creative?
22-Jan	Chapter 1: Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses
4-Feb	Chapter 2: Synapses
11-Feb	Chapter 3: Anatomy of the Nervous System
18-Feb	Journal Critique #1
4-Mar	Chapter 4: Development and Plasticity of the Brain ed.ted: Could the Brain Repair Itself?
11-Mar	Spring Break
18-Mar	Chapter 8: Wakefulness and Sleep ed.ted: Why Do We Dream?
25-Mar	Chapter 9: Internal Regulation Sleep Diary/Analysis Due
1-Apr	Journal Critique #2
8-Apr	Chapter 10: Reproductive Behaviors ed.ted: The Science of Attraction
15-Apr	Chapter 11: Emotional Behaviors ed.ted: How Stress Affects Your Brain
22-Apr	Chapter 14 Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia
29-Apr	Final Exam



View the [university's academic calendar](#) for add, drop, and withdrawal deadlines.

Late Work Policy

Late work submitted after the deadline may be penalized by up to 20% of the points for the assignment. Requests for extensions of deadlines may be made for university-excused absences or for extenuating circumstances.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in [EIU's Code of Conduct](#). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. As a student, you have a personal responsibility to maintain high standards of academic conduct to preserve academic integrity. Academic misconduct will result in zero points for the assignment and appropriate disciplinary action, according to university guidelines.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). All accommodations must be approved through ODS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the [Student Success Center](#) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Early Alert System

Eastern maintains an Early Alert System (EAS) to help students know when they are not performing up to academic standards. Alerts may be given for poor attendance, not turning work in on time, or doing poorly on an assignment or test. EAS staff will contact you to help you find resources to help you be a successful student. Resources may include time management, study skills, test-taking, finding tutors, or other resources related to academic issues. I will use the EAS if I believe you could benefit from talking to a success coach about these issues.

Booth Library

Located in the center of campus, Booth Library is the best place to do research, find expert help, or study in a calm, distraction-free environment. In addition to the many print resources, Booth provides access to high quality e-books, journals and scholarship not freely available on the Web. Stop by the Reference Desk or go to <http://library.eiu.edu> to explore library resources. Get expert help with your research by contacting the Booth Library reference librarians. Visit, call 581-6072, or go to <http://booth.eiu.edu/ask> to connect with a librarian.