

Endicott College
Beverly, Massachusetts
Van Loan School of Graduate and Professional Studies
Course Syllabus

Course No: PSY322 Winter/Spring 2019

Course Title: Biological Psychology

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: PSY100

Semester and Year: Spring 2018

Faculty: Sayyed Mohsen Fatemi

Office Location: By appointment.

Telephone:

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Catalog Description

This course explores the fundamental foundations of the neural basis of human behavior. Students examine the anatomy and development of the nervous system, neuronal function, synaptic transmission, psychopharmacology, and sensory systems such as vision and audition. Prerequisite: PSY 100 or permission of instructor.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Research methods used in biological psychology
2. Basic structure and function of the nervous system and its cells
3. Neuronal communication and the effects of psychopharmacological agents

Topical Outline (and textbook readings):**1. CONSCIOUSNESS, THE MIND, AND FREE WILL:**

This module will address the science underlying consciousness and free-will.

2. THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM:

This module will cover the origins of biological psychology, research techniques for studying brain function, and the anatomy of the nervous system and functional significance.

3. NERVE CELL COMMUNICATION (SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION):

This module will cover neurons, glia, and synaptic transmission, and depression.

4. STRESS, REWARD, AND THE LIMBIC SYSTEM:

This module will cover the biological basis of emotion and stress and anxiety.

5. LEARNING & MEMORY:

This module will cover the biological basis of learning and memory storage.

6. HORMONES, BEHAVIOR, AND THE BIOCHEMISTRY OF LOVE**7. THE NEUROCHEMISTRY OF HAPPINESS****Course Structure:**

The course is structured as seven weekly modules. Each weekly session will consist of assigned readings from the textbook, as well as supplemental materials designed to facilitate understanding. Course requirements include six discussion forum assignments and one position paper. The instructor will be available to students by email and Skype for the duration of the course.

Evaluation Methods:

Students will also be required to post an entry to six Discussion Forum topics. After posting an entry to a topic, the students will be able to view each other's entries. Students must respond to at least one other student's post. Your proactive and mindful participation will play a significant role in achieving a higher grade.

Students will also be required to write a short position paper.

Students will be graded for the course in the following manner:

Discussion Forum Entries (collectively):	70% of course grade
Short position paper:	30% of course grade

Also, please note that this course is an accelerated-pace, intensive-format schedule. Our timeframe is very short, and we move along quickly. Please be aware of the assignment due dates, so that you don't get blind-sided. This intensive format is designed to be the maximum pace of learning so it does not allow for falling behind or for submitting overdue assignments after the due date. In addition, the Discussion Forum assignments are designed to be a real-time discussion among the students in the course so this does not allow for submission of past due assignments. You can't take part in an ongoing discussion after the fact! Late assignments will not be accepted. After the due date, all late assignments will automatically receive a grade of zero.

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Grade Point Value
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	64-66	1.0
D-	60-63	0.7
F	Below 60	0.0

Required Readings:

Textbook for the Course:

***Psychology as a Biological Science* (This is a free online textbook included in the course).**

Recommended Readings:

Additional readings as assigned will be posted on Canvas. These readings will be selected from the popular scientific literature and will be reports of current or recent findings related to the material to be covered the course.

ADA Policy:

If you as a student qualify as a person with a disability, as defined in Chapter 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, you may wish to discuss the need for reasonable accommodation with your instructor. You should make this contact at the start of the semester.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to abide by the *Academic Honesty Policy* of Endicott College.

Subject to Change Statement:

I reserve the right to make modifications in the course structure and/or content as needed, and if deemed necessary for the benefit of the class.