BIOPSYCHOLOGY
PSY 2330
SPRING '24

Professor Information:

Name: Dr. Nathan Sparkman

Department: Psychology

Office Phone: 936-468-4402 *- email is better

e-mail: sparkmannl@sfasu.edu

Office Hours: MW 10-12; R 11-12 or by appt

Required Text:


Course Description:

Biopsychology PSY 2330 - Examination of relationships between behavior and underlying physiological mechanisms. Aspects covered include neural conduction, sensory receptor mechanisms, learning and memory, and other aspects of higher cortical functioning in both humans and animals.

Program Learning Outcomes: PLO

The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology. Advanced

The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation. Intermediate

The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes. Advance/Mastery
The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues. The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to...

1. understand and communicate theories pertaining to biopsychology
2. identify different research methods utilized in the field of biopsychology
3. define normal and abnormal brain functioning
4. discuss how major biopsychological principles, theories, and findings relate to everyday life and real-world problems

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grading Policy:

Final grades for the course are based on the coursework described below. All grades will be posted in the D2L website.

Evaluation and Grading:

4 exams (100pts each)

Assignments (points varies; ~80total points)

Your course grade is calculated as the percentage of total points earned in the course.

Total Points Earned/Total Points Available= % of Points Earned

Grade= % of Points Earned
A  90 - 100 percent
B  80 - 89 percent
C  70 - 79 percent
D  60 - 69 percent
F  less than 60 percent

Unit Tests: There will be 4 unit tests. Each test is comprised of material from the lectures and assigned readings/media/activities and assignments. Exams are to be taken inperson during the scheduled class period. Students will, normally, be given at least one-week notice of the exact test date(s) and materials. Each exam is of equal weight (100pts).

Assignments: Assignments will be weighted in accordance with assignment length and required effort. In completing assignments be aware that you in addition to answering the question, you are demonstrating your knowledge and attention to detail. Main things that you should be aware of: 1) Define all terms and explain how they pertain to the specific scenario in question 2) Avoid copying and pasting. This is plagiarism. You should rephrase. If necessary provide a citation. (-- I will tell you if references are required) 3) Reread your work before submitting. Look for missing words, spelling, pronoun use, run on sentences. 4) Keep it simple, straight forward, and address the writing prompt completely. I will always grade the last version of an assignment that you turn in. Your assignments must be submitted as a Microsoft office word doc (All students have access to word through mySFA).

Guidelines for the Course

1. Late and Make-Up Test/Work Policy

Late work will be penalized (10% per day late and will not be accepted after the third day). You must notify me by email when submitting late work or it may go ungraded. Late work may not be submitted after the last class day. If a student misses a test, make-up tests will be scheduled in the event that documentation is provided to the instructor showing that the student was incapacitated during the time in which the test was offered. Students must provide documentation of a University-recognized excused absence to be eligible to take a make-up test. Make-up tests must be completed within a week. In order to do this, the student must contact the instructor, provide documentation of a University-recognized absence, and schedule a time to
make-up the test. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor. If a student fails to do so or fails to meet with the instructor in a timely manner (1 week), he/she forfeits his/her opportunity to complete the work and grade of zero will remain in the grade book.

**Academic Integrity (4.1)**

*The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity* outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

- **Plagiarism** is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

- **Collusion** is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

- **Misrepresentation** is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of
obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

- Unauthorized use of generative AI tools may represent both plagiarism and/or collusion and are forbidden for this course. All course work should be produced by the student enrolled in the course.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with
relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)

www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents

936.468.7249

dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202

www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp

936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”

Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education
Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Schedule of topics covered and assignments are listed below. You are expected to have read and be familiar with assigned readings prior to class. Assignments will be made throughout the course and may include inclass activities and homework.

Note: All dates and assignments are tentative and the professor reserves the right to change them. To stay up to date on topics and due dates you should be checking D2L daily.
“Biopsychology” (3 credits) is designed to introduce students to the field of biopsychology by covering the relationships between behavior and underlying physiological mechanisms including neural conduction, sensory receptor mechanisms, learning and memory, and other aspects of higher cortical functioning in both humans and animals. The course typically meets 150 minutes a week in two 75-minute segments or three 50-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination period. Students typically have significant weekly reading assignments, writing assignments, are expected to take regular tests, and a final examination. These activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours. Online course sections contain extensive written content that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture sections receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least three hours per week. For every hour a student spends engaging with the online content, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

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<td>GETTING STARTED</td>
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<td>INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW and MAJOR ISSUES</td>
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<td>SYNAPSES AND DRUGS</td>
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<td>THE BIOLOGY OF LEARNING AND MEMORY</td>
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