

**Psychology 3: Biological Psychology (Hybrid)**  
Saddleback College

**SAMPLE SYLABUS**

**Instructor:** Caroline Gee, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays noon-2pm, plus 3 virtual office hours

**Prerequisite:** Psych 1

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the study of behavior from a biological perspective. Neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, psychopharmacology, and the biological systems and processes underlying behavior will be covered. Emphasis will be placed on brain mechanisms underlying behavior and their relation to issues in psychology.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the major cells in the nervous system and describe how they communicate.
- 2) Identify the major lobes and structures of the brain and describe their function and how they interact with one another.
- 3) Assess the advantages and disadvantages of several research techniques and methods of measurement in physiological psychology.
- 4) Describe the sensory receptors involved in the different senses and how they function to yield sensation and perception.
- 5) Demonstrate understanding of physiological basis of several behaviors from low level behaviors such as movement, to high level behaviors such as thought and language.
- 6) Show understanding of various methods and topics in the area of physiological psychology in both oral discussion and writing.

**Required Text:**

Kalat, James. Biological Psychology. 10<sup>th</sup> edition (Thomas Wadsworth). The bookstore sells a custom version of this textbook: a loose leaf 3-hole punch version that only has the chapters we will be using in this class. It is less expensive than the new version of the hardbound 10<sup>th</sup> edition, but you may be able to find a used copy of the hardbound for less.

**Additional readings:**

Are posted in Blackboard.

**Blackboard:**

Lecture notes for the class will be posted on Blackboard, along with any additional resources such as study guides and Internet links. Announcements will also be posted on Blackboard, so please check in there regularly.

**Evaluation:**

- **Exams (90 pts, 105 pts, and 105 pts each, respectively):** There are three exams. The first exam is worth 90 points, and the last two are worth 105 each. Each exam will consist of an in-class test that will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Roughly 75% of exam questions will be based on material covered in lecture or lecture and the text, and 25% based solely on material covered in the textbook or the additional assigned readings.
- **Online Assignments (50 pts total):** Online coursework will include quizzes and discussion board assignments to be completed by the due date. Please check the schedule for the due dates. Note, for discussion boards, often more than one post is required and the initial post is due before due date posted in the syllabus. Further details will be posted in Blackboard.
- **Written Assignment (50 pts):** In lieu of a full-length research paper for this course, students will be required to read either short chapters or articles from outside sources on various topics and turn in a written outline of the source material. You will also be required to present what you learned in a small group setting. There may be a creative presentation option available to the class as well as the small group setting presentation option. Further details will be provided on Blackboard.

**Grading**

There are a total of 400 points in the class. I do not intend to curve grades. Grades will be assigned by the following criteria:

90% = 360 - 400 points = A  
80% = 320 - 356 points = B  
70% = 280 - 319 points = C  
60% = 240 - 279 points = D  
Below 269 points = F

**Other important dates:**

**Tuesday, 9/22:** Last day to drop this class for a full refund

**Thursday, 10/8:** Last day to drop without a "W" Grade

**Thursday 11/12:** Last day to drop with "W" grade

## Class policies:

- **Contact:** Please come see me if you need help or have questions. I hold regular office hours and I respond to student email. PLEASE write your ticket number in the subject line, as well as your full name in the body of the email. I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. Emails sent Friday afternoon or over the weekend will be responded to Monday afternoon.
- **Attendance:** Come to class. Show up on time. You will learn best if you attend class and participate in class activities. If you are absent, copy notes from a classmate. Attendance will be recorded each class. As per district policy, students who miss more than 6 hours of lecture may be dropped from the class.
- **Makeup exams and late assignments:** The instructor is under no obligation to accept late papers or give makeup examinations and will be considered 1) if **discussed with me in advance** (at least 1 week prior to the due date or examination date) or 2) in the instance of a **medical emergency**. In either instance, you must contact me prior to class on the scheduled due date or examination time and **written proof** of the absence will be required in order to be considered for approval of a makeup exam or the turning in of a late paper. Approved late papers and makeup exams will result in a deduction of total possible points (10% will be deducted for each day past the due date or exam date). If a make-up exam is approved, it must be made up during a time that I already plan to be on campus. Note: make up examinations are rarely approved.
- **Cheating:** I do not tolerate cheating. If I catch a student cheating, the student will receive a zero on that test or assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean's office to be retained on record. It is very important to avoid putting yourself in the position of even being suspected of cheating or plagiarism, as very serious consequences may result and remain on your student record.
- **Requests for re-grading:** Any re-grade requests for any exams or writing assignments must be submitted in writing to the instructor no later than one week after the graded exam or assignment is available for return.
- **Record keeping:** It is recommended that you take responsibility for keeping track of the weekly points you are accumulating. To this end, you should keep all of your exams and assignments given back to you, which documents the work you have done and the points you have received, and regularly check Blackboard for your grades.
- **Class conduct:** The classroom is meant to be a positive environment that promotes student learning. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect of the right of all members of the college community to teach and learn in a safe and academically stimulating environment. Please be courteous to other students, so as not to disrupt their ability to learn (or my ability to teach). This rule applies to issues such as cell phones, laptops, side discussions, participation in class discussions, and more. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave the class.
- **Students with disabilities:** Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in Room 113 of the Student Services Center (SCC) Building. The DSP&S phone number is (949) 582-4885.

**PSYC 3 Tentative Course Schedule**  
**SAMPLE (subject to change)**

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings in Modules and Due Dates
1	Tue	9/15	Introduction to biological psychology	1.1,1.3
1	Thu	9/17	Major issues	1.2
2	Tue	9/22	Nerve cells & impulses	2.1, 2.2 <b>ONLINE quiz 1 and discussion 1</b>
2	Thu	9/24	Nerve impulses	2.2
3	Tue	9/29	Synapses	3.1
3	Thu	10/1	Chemical events at synapses	3.2
4	Tue	10/6	Drugs and the brain	3.3 <b>ONLINE quiz 2 and discussion 2</b>
4	Thu	10/8	<b>Exam 1</b>	
5	Tue	10/13	Neuroanatomy	4.1
5	Thu	10/15	Neuroanatomy	4.2
6	Tue	10/20	Neuroanatomy	<b>ONLINE discussion 3</b>
6	Thu	10/22	Development and evolution of the brain	See Blackboard
7	Tue	10/27	Plasticity of the brain	See Blackboard
7	Thu	10/29	Mood disorders	15.1
8	Tue	11/3	Schizophrenia	15.2
8	Thu	11/7	Consciousness and Attention	<b>ONLINE quiz 4 and discussion 3</b>
9	Tue	11/10	<b>Exam 2</b>	
9	Thu	11/12	Sensory systems	7.1 & See Blackboard
10	Tue	11/17	Sensory systems	7.2, 7.3
10	Thu	11/19	Biological rhythms and sleep	9.1 <b>ONLINE discussion 5</b>
11	Tue	11/24	Biological rhythms and sleep	9.2
11	Thu	11/26	<b>No class: Thanksgiving</b>	
12	Tue	12/1	Reproductive behaviors	11.1
12	Thu	12/3	Reproductive behaviors	11.2
13	Tue	12/8	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Written Assignment DUE before class</b>
13	Thu	12/10	Emotional Behaviors	See Ch 12 for reference <b>ONLINE quiz 4 and discussion 6</b>
14	Tue	12/15	<b>Exam 3, 12:45-2:25pm, same room</b>	

**Note 1:** Assignments are all due in Blackboard before class begins that day.