Physiological Psychology Lab
PSYC 373 Section 205/206 - Spring 2017

Instructor: Paul Beatty
E-mail: pbeatty@masonlive.gmu.edu
Class Time: Section 205 - Tuesdays 8:30 am – 10:20 am
Section 206 - Tuesdays 10:30 am – 12:20 pm
Office Location: David King Hall 1014D
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
or by appointment
Class Location: DKH 2074

Goals of Lab: The goal of this lab is for students to learn about various brain structures and their respective functions through weekly lectures and dissections. The course will provide an overview of the cellular mechanisms involved in nervous system function and permit students to gain hands-on experience performing sheep brain/eye dissections. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate and discuss several theories and research techniques and will give presentations on neuroscience or biopsychological research topics related to the class.

Recommended Text: Cooley, R. K., & Vanderwolf, C.H. (2001). The Sheep Brain: A Basic Guide. A.J. Kirby Co.: London.

Attendance & Participation: Material covered in lab will be the basis of quizzes and exams, so you are highly encouraged to attend lab. Attendance during dissections is especially essential because these will be your **ONLY** chance to use the sheep brain and eye. It is not possible to repeat missed dissections during a later lab. If you know you will be absent for a class ahead of time, talk to me and I may be able to arrange for you to attend another lab section.

Lab Practical Exams: Practical exams are approximately 50% of your grade in this lab. These exams consist of identification as well as questions regarding the function of pinned brain structures. The Lab Practical Exams cannot be made up at a later date. The nature of the exam does not allow it to be reproduced or preserved. Practical 1 covers Brain Tours I & II and is worth 50 points. Practical 2 is a cumulative final and is worth 100 points.

Prior to each practical exam, I will administer "mock practicals" that will allow you to gain exposure as to how the actual exam will be administered. Although these practices will not be graded, if you attend, you will *significantly* increase your chances of getting a good grade on the real practical.

Quizzes: There will be 2 quizzes worth 25 points each, based on lecture material covered in lab. These quizzes will not require identification of brain structures as observed through dissection. Quiz questions can take the form of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, labeling a diagram, and/or short-answer format. The quizzes are administered during the first few minutes of class. Students will have a maximum of 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Once the time is up you must turn in the quiz. If you are late to class or have missed the quiz, you will **NOT** be able to make it up.

In Class Assignments: Students will complete a series of *unannounced* in-class assignments that will reflect the material covered during the lab lectures. These assignments will be graded in terms of completion as oppose to accuracy.

Discussion Posts: Students will complete a weekly discussion post with regard to a question or statement that I have posted on Blackboard. The topic of the post will correspond with the topic of that week's lab. Each post will need to contribute thoughtful criticism or commentary (at least 2 paragraphs) in order to receive full credit. You cannot repeat aspects of what other students have posted unless you contribute additional information or take an alternate point of view. Discussion posts that are not submitted by the due date will not be graded and will receive a 0.

Lab Reports: Students will complete three lab reports, worth 20 points each, that cover (1) action potential simulations, (2) color perception and blind spots, as well as (3) cognitive neuroscience and neuroimaging methods. The lab reports will be provided on Blackboard and must be submitted in class by the specified due date. Late reports will not be graded and will receive a 0.

Policy Regarding Late Assignments: Permission to postpone a quiz or to turn in an assignment late will only be given for very important and acute reasons. The student must obtain my prior consent to postpone an assignment, including quizzes, or has written medical documentation for absence from a quiz or other assignment. Any documentation required for excused absences MUST be turned in by the following lab period.

The GMU Honor Code will be Strictly Enforced: Students are required to complete their own work – plagiarism, cheating, and copying other students' work will not be tolerated. Cheating and plagiarism will be reported to the University Honor Board and/or penalized. Information that is used from an outside source must be cited in correct APA format. I reserve the right to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

Official Communications via GMU E-Mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Class Cancellation Policy: In the event that class is cancelled, I will notify students via email and post an announcement on Blackboard. In addition, I will notify students if any changes are made to the course schedule.

Technology Statement: Required knowledge of technology for this course includes ability to retrieve handouts sent via email to your GMU address or posted on Blackboard (mymason.gmu.edu). Occasionally I may use computer programs or the Internet in class to present demonstrations of relevant material. You may also wish to use websites provided by me to study for the lab practical exams.

Students With Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

Selective Withdrawal Period: Undergraduate Degree seeking students may request a maximum of three-selective withdrawals during their entire undergraduate career. Before/If you decide that you would like to selectively withdraw from the course, please talk to your adviser and/or me to verify that it is the best decision for you. The selective withdrawal period for Spring 2017 is February 27th through March 31st.

Important Dates: to find out more information on the add/drop dates, or general information about the academic calendar, visit http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/. The last day to add a class is January 30th. The last days to drop a class are: January 30th (no penalty), February 13th (33% tuition penalty), and February 24th (67% tuition penalty).

2 Quizzes (25 points each)	50 points
Lab Practical I	50 points
Lab Practical II (cumulative)	100 points
In-Class Assignments (2 points each)	22 points
6 Discussion Posts (3 points each)	18 points
3 Lab Reports (20 points each)	60 points
TOTAL	300 points

A+ (97 – 100%); A (93 – 96%); A- (90 – 92%) B+ (87 – 89%); B (83 – 86%); B- (80 – 82%)
C+ (77 – 79%); C (73 – 76%) C- (70 – 72%) D (60 – 69%) F (59% and below)

	Tentative Course Schedule:	Assignments Due:
January 24	Introduction/Neurophysiology	
January 31	Neurophysiology cont'd (Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential) Lab Report 1 Demonstration	
February 7	**QUIZ 1** **(Neurophysiology, Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential)** Brain Tour Part I	**Discussion Post 1** **Lab Report 1**
February 14	Brain Tour Part II (Cranial Nerves)	**Discussion Post 2**
February 21	Mock Practical/Study Session for Lab Practical 1	**Discussion Post 3**
February 28	**Lab Practical I (Brain Tours I & II)**	
March 7	Visual System (Sheep Eye Dissection) Lab Report 2 Demonstration	
March 14	**SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**	
March 21	**Quiz 2 (Visual System)** Midsagittal Dissection	**Discussion Post 4** **Lab Report 2**
March 28	**CONFERENCE – NO CLASS**	**Discussion Post 5**
April 4	Coronal Dissections	
April 11	Mock Practical/Study Session for Lab Practical II	**Discussion Post 6**
April 18	**Lab Practical II (cumulative)**	
April 25	Cognitive Neuroscience / Neuroimaging Part 1 Lab Report 3 Demonstration	
May 2	Cognitive Neuroscience / Neuroimaging Part 2	**Lab Report 3**