

# Physiological Psychology

## PSYC 372 Section 001 - Spring 2018

**Instructor:** Paul Beatty  
**Class Time:** W 7:20pm – 10:00 pm  
**Class Location:** Innovation 132

**E-mail:** pbeatty@gmu.edu  
**Office Location:** DK 1014D  
**Office Hours:** R 9:00am - 10:00am

### Course Description:

Physiological psychology is a branch of psychology that seeks to understand and explore the biological bases of behavior and how it relates to mental processes. Throughout the course, we will cover topics such as basic neuroanatomy, the development of the nervous system, sensory and motor systems, brain plasticity, the relationships between the brain and behavior, and the mechanisms behind cognitive/emotional disorders. Physiological Psychology can be a challenging course as we cover a lot of information that many students only glance over in other classes. Due to the nature of the semester, this course is very fast-paced and will require a lot of studying (*especially* if you are not coming into this class with a science background).

This course will consist of a series of lectures, in-class assignments/activities, and exams to be completed in class. There will also be weekly chapter quizzes to be completed online via Blackboard. All course tasks are described in detail below.

### Required Textbook:

Pinel, J. & Barnes, S. (2017). Biopsychology, 10<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pearson. (ISBN-13: 978-0-13-420369-0).

### Course objectives:

- Establish basic knowledge of the nervous system
- Describe the development of the nervous system and understand neuronal plasticity
- Recognize the biological mechanisms of normal and abnormal behaviors
- Interpret and evaluate the brain-behavior relationship

### Readings:

Assigned readings will consist of chapters from the textbook. Our time together in class will be much more productive if you come to class prepared. Part of being prepared is completing all readings **BEFORE** you come to class. You don't need to understand every word, but you need to have a clear idea of the overall concepts addressed and be prepared with possible questions or discussion points.

### In-Class Assignments:

I will provide time during most class meetings for you to complete an assignment during class. Assignments will relate to that day's material and will address topics that will be on the exams. Therefore, it is highly encouraged that you attend each class and complete the assignments. Bringing your textbook and lecture notes to class will help you complete the assignments. You will submit these assignments **while in class** as a written hard copy. You are allowed to drop two of these assignments; thus, there will be no make-ups. These assignments will account for 10% of your final grade.

### Chapter Quizzes:

Following completion of all lectures, assignments, and activities for a chapter, you must take an online chapter quiz via Blackboard. All quiz questions are multiple-choice and cover topics that will appear on exams. Quizzes are open book/note, however they will be timed and are limited to one attempt. **Quizzes must be completed by 8 pm on their specific due dates** (see Chapter Quiz Due Dates below). There will be a total of 12 chapter quizzes (drop lowest 2 quizzes), which will account for a total of 20% of your final grade.

### Exams:

There will be a total of four exams (three non-cumulative interim exams and one semi-cumulative final exam) consisting of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. The lowest of the three interim exam grades will be dropped. The two interim exams that you keep will each account for 20% of your final grade. **Because the lowest grade will be dropped, no makeups will be allowed for the interim exams.** The final exam is mandatory for all students and will account for 30% of your final grade.

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### Attendance and Makeup Policies:

#### Attendance:

Attendance is not part of your grade for this course. However, arriving late, leaving early and/or failing to attend class will adversely affect your in-class assignment grade and will interfere with your ability to learn the course material. With that being said, I understand that emergencies do come up. If you must miss a class, please go to a classmate first for notes. I will be glad to meet with you about any questions after you do this. I also welcome questions via email anytime. If you must arrive to class early or leave late, please seat yourself as close to the door as possible to avoid any sort of disruption. **NOTE: You are responsible for all announcements and any syllabus modifications made in class each week whether you are present or not.**

#### Assignment Makeup Policy:

Because you are allowed to drop two of the in-class assignments without penalty, makeups are not allowed. Students who provide written medical or similar documentation explaining an extended absence from class (i.e., missing two or more consecutive classes) will be allowed to make up assignments at my discretion.

#### Quiz and Exam Makeup Policy:

Because you are allowed to drop your two lowest quiz scores, chapter quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances. Any chapter quiz not taken by its deadline will receive a grade of zero. In addition, since the lowest grade for interim exams will be dropped, makeups exams will not be administered. Final exam makeups will only be permitted with medical documentation.

### Grading Breakdown:

- In-Class Assignments (10%)
- Chapter Quizzes (20%)
- Interim Exams (2 x 20%)
- Final Exam (30%)

A+ 97% or above	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D 60-69%
A 93-96%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	F 59% & below
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	

Incomplete (IN) grades will be assigned only in cases of compelling and documented need, in accordance with policies set forth in the University Catalog.

### 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.

### Official communications via GMU email:

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 email account, and are required to activate that account and **check it regularly**.

### Technology statement:

Required knowledge of technology for this course includes ability to access course materials posted on Blackboard and/or sent via email to your GMU address. To log in to Blackboard, go to the MyMason portal at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>, enter your PatriotPass credentials (i.e., your Mason email username and password), and select the Courses tab. Please be sure that you have access to Blackboard **and that your GMU email account is active and not over quota**.

### Disability Accommodations:

All students with questions or concerns about this class are encouraged to set up a time to meet with the professor, preferably during the first 2 weeks of the semester. Students with disabilities should work with the Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474 to identify appropriate accommodations and communicate those with the professor.

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### Academic Integrity:

This course will be conducted in accordance with the GMU Honor Code, and all students are expected to abide by it. The GMU Honor Code, as found in the University Catalog, is as follows: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. Details concerning the university's Honor System and Code can be found in the University Catalog.

If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor or utilize the GMU writing center.

### Religious Holidays:

Please refer to George Mason University's calendar of religious holidays and observations (<http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/>). It is the student's responsibility to speak to the instructor in advance should their religious observances impact their participation in class activities and assignments.

### Student Privacy:

George Mason University strives to fully comply with FERPA by protecting the privacy of student records and judiciously evaluating requests for release of information from those records. Please see George Mason University's student privacy policy <https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/>

### Student Services:

#### University Libraries:

University Libraries (<http://library.gmu.edu/>) provides a variety of resources and services to students, including library liaisons who are subject matter experts (see <http://library.gmu.edu/liaisons> for a list of liaisons).

#### Counseling and Psychological Services:

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (See <http://caps.gmu.edu>).

### 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 2018 is February 26<sup>th</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 29<sup>th</sup>. The last days to drop a class are: January 29<sup>th</sup> (no penalty), February 12<sup>th</sup> (33% tuition penalty), and February 23<sup>rd</sup> (67% tuition penalty).

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**Tentative Schedule**

<b>Class Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Chapter Quiz Deadlines (Due at 8 pm on date listed)</b>
Jan. 24	Biopsychology as a Neuroscience (Introduction)	Chapter 1	Jan 26: Ch. 1 Quiz
Jan. 31	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 3	Feb. 2: Ch. 3 Quiz
Feb. 7	Neural Conduction and Synaptic Transmission	Chapter 4	Feb. 9: Ch. 4 Quiz
Feb. 14	The Research Methods of Biopsychology	Chapter 5	Feb 16: Ch. 5 Quiz
Feb. 21	First Half: <b>EXAM 1</b> Second Half: BEGIN The Visual System	Chapter 6	
Feb. 28	FINISH - The Visual System BEGIN - Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 6 & 7	Mar 2: Ch. 6 Quiz
Mar. 7	FINISH - Other Sensory Systems BEGIN - Sensorimotor Systems	Chapter 7 & 8	Mar. 9: Ch. 7 Quiz
Mar. 14	<b><i>SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS</i></b>		
Mar. 21	First Half: <b>EXAM 2</b> Second Half: FINISH Sensorimotor Systems	Chapter 8	Mar. 23: Ch. 8 Quiz
Mar. 28	Development & Neuroplasticity	Chapter 9 & 10	Mar. 30: Ch. 9/10 Quiz
Apr 4	Hunger, Eating and Health	Chapter 12	Apr. 6: Ch. 12 Quiz
Apr. 11	Sleep, Dreaming, Circadian Rhythms	Chapter 14	Apr. 13: Ch. 14 Quiz
Apr. 18	First Half: <b>EXAM 3</b> Second Half: BEGIN - Learning/Mem/Amnesia	Chapter 11	
Apr. 25	FINISH - Learning/Mem/Amnesia Lateralization and Split Brain	Chapter 11 & 16	Apr. 27: Ch. 11/16 Quiz
May 2	Emotion, Stress and Health Biopsychology of Psychiatric Disorders	Chapter 17 & 18	May 4: Ch. 17/18 Quiz
May 9	<b>FINAL EXAM 7:30 pm - 10:15 pm</b>		

**NOTE: You are responsible for all announcements and any syllabus modifications made in class each week whether you are present or not.**