Physiological Psychology Lab
PSYC 373 – 2C1, SUMMER 2011

Instructor: Caitlin Groeber E-mail address: cgroeber@gmu.edu
Class time: Monday/Wednesday 8:30 – 11:20 AM
Class location: DK 3044 Office phone #: 703-993-1358
Office hours: M 11:30a–12:30p & by appt. Office location: TBA

Goals of Lab: The primary goal of this lab is for students to learn brain and eye structure location with some understanding of related function. A secondary goal is for students to gain critical skills in interpreting peer-reviewed research literature, specifically neuroscience-related literature.

Materials You Need To Purchase:
- Dissection kit

**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. If you do miss class, please ask fellow classmates for notes before coming to me for help. It will not often be possible to repeat missed dissections in lab the following lab period. If you know you will be absent for a class ahead of time, talk to me and I may possibly be able to arrange for you to attend another lab time. (This will not be acceptable on days we have quizzes, exams, and presentations). You are responsible for any and all announcements and modifications made to the syllabus whether you are present each week or not.

**Lab Practical Exams: Practical exams are approximately 50% of your grade in this lab. These exams consist of several pinned brains/brain parts. You will be expected to identify and/or answer question(s) about each. 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. Lab Practical I will be administered on July 18 and will be worth 50 points. Lab Practical II, cumulative, will be administered on August 1 and will be worth 100 points.

**Quizzes: There will be 2 quizzes worth 30 points each based on lecture material covered in class. These quizzes will not require identification of pinned brains/brain parts. Questions will be in the form of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, labeling a diagram, and/or short answer. Quiz 1 will be on July 11 and Quiz 2 will be on July 25.

**Article Summary: Each student will select an article from a scientific journal that relates to the topics covered in PSYC 373 or 372 (published in the last 5 years). A worksheet detailing the format of your article summary will be posted on Blackboard. A photocopy of the complete article must be turned in with your summary. All references must be cited in APA format. No emailed article summaries will be accepted. The article summary is due on July 13.
**Presentations:** Each student must give an 8-10 minute presentation on a neuroscience/biology topic of his/her choice. Topic choices must be approved by me no later than July 20. You may want to consider using your written article summary as a potential topic. On July 27 you must turn in to me a typed outline of your proposed presentation, which will be worth 10 points. Be sure to include all references. I will provide feedback and help you to prepare for your presentation. Each student will be required to provide some sort of visual aid (handouts, overheads, PowerPoint presentation) to accompany the presentation. Additionally, each student will receive written feedback on the presentation from classmates. Part of your presentation grade will be based on your presence at others’ presentations.

*Please note: just because the presentations are at the end of the semester does NOT make them optional. If you choose not to complete the presentation because you have already obtained your desired grade, I reserve the right to lower your final grade by one whole letter grade!*

**Policy Regarding Late Assignments:** Unless the student has written medical or legal documentation for an absence from any test or other assignment, there will be an automatic grade-loss penalty of 10% that will be deducted from the score of the make-up test or late assignment. Any make-up quiz or assignment will be structured like the original, but the content may be different. If a late assignment is not turned in or if a make-up quiz is not taken before the following class meeting, a zero will be given for that assignment. Any and all documentation required for excused absences **MUST** be turned in by the following class; not at the end of the semester.

**The GMU honor code will be strictly enforced.** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the University Honor Board &/or penalized. Information that must be used from an outside source must be cited in correct APA format.

**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. 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. I will post relevant information and documents via the latest version of Microsoft Office, so make sure to have the latest version of office or download the converter in order to read all important documents.

**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 that office.

**The topics covered in this course can be difficult to grasp.** By attending classes and discussing the information with classmates and myself, you should be able to obtain a better understanding of the material. Feel free to meet with me during office hours or by appointment concerning this material or send me questions and/or comments via e-mail.

**This course does require participation in dissection of animal parts.** If you have a concern about this, please meet with me as soon as possible.
Tentative Course Schedule: | Assignments Due:  
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**July 6** | Introduction/Neurophysiology (Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential)  
**July 11** | **LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES**  
**July 11** | **Quiz 1** (Neurophysiology, Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential)  
**July 13** | Brain Tour Part I  
**July 11** | Brain Tour Part II (Cranial Nerves)  
**July 18** | Quiz 1 (Neurophysiology, Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential)  
**July 11** | Quiz 1 (Neurophysiology, Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential)  
**July 18** | Last Day to Drop Classes  
**July 18** | Lab Practical I (Brain Tours I & II)  
**July 20** | Visual System  
**July 25** | Quiz 2 (visual system)  
**July 27** | Coronal Dissections  
**August 1** | Lab Practical II (cumulative)  
**August 3** | Presentations  

**Grades:**  
Quizzes (30 pts x 2) | 60 points  
Attendance and Participation | 10 points  
Lab Practical 1 | 50 points  
Lab Practical 2 | 100 points  
Presentation Outline | 10 points  
Presentation | 40 points  
Article Summaries | 30 points  
**Total** | **300 points**  

A+ (97%+); 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% & below)