

DRAFT SYLLABUS
PSYC 372: Biopsychology Lecture (3 credits)
Fall 2020

Instructor: Farah Bader, MPH

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Class time and location: Online

Optional Synchronous Session via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra: Mondays 1:30 to 2:30 pm

KEY DATES	
Last day to add	August 31st
Last day to add/drop with 100% tuition refund	Tuesday, Sept.8th
Last day to drop with 50% tuition refund	Tuesday, Sept. 15 th
Unrestricted withdrawal time period (100% tuition):	Wed. Sept. 16-Mon.Sept. 28
Selective withdrawal time period (undergrad only) (100% tuition	Tues. Sept.29-Oct.28 th

PREREQUISITES:

PSYC 100, BIOL 103 with BIOL 106 & BIOL 107; or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biopsychology is the branch of psychology that investigates the biological bases of normal and abnormal behavior. Topics include the structure of the nervous system, neural communication, research methods, sleep, reproduction, eating, cognitive processes, emotion, and psychiatric conditions. A special emphasis will be placed on clinical applications of course material and on biopsychology research findings that have shed light on the brain-behavior relationship. This course will consist of a series of lectures, discussion board activities, quizzes, and exams to be completed online. The course is asynchronous, meaning that you may complete all assigned tasks at your own pace with an optional synchronous weekly session where I will go over announcements, challenging concepts the class is having trouble with, and review exam or quiz questions. Note that there are weekly deadlines and exams will occur on specific dates.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the various subfields and research approaches within biopsychology
2. Describe the basic layout and major functions of the nervous system
3. Describe the biological underpinnings of normal and abnormal behaviors
4. Apply learning in the course to “real life” topics and problems

BLACKBOARD LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

Access to MyMason and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course.

Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format BEFORE the first day of class. Check the IT Support Center website.

Navigate to the Student Support page for help and information about Blackboard. In the menu bar to the left you will find all the tools you need to become familiar with for this course. Take time to learn each. Make sure you run a system check a few days before class. Become familiar with the attributes of Blackboard and online learning.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Pinel, J.P.J. (2013) Biopsychology, 10th Edition. ISBN: 9780134203690

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Hardware: You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and access to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required taking a distance education course, consider and allow for:

1. the storage amount needed to install any additional software and
2. space to store work that you will do for the course.

If you consider the purchase of a new computer, please go to Technology Buying Guide to see recommendations.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

This course uses Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal.

See supported browsers and operating systems. Log in to myMason to access your registered courses. Online courses typically use Acrobat Reader, Flash, Java, and Windows Media Player, and/or Real Media Player. Your computer should be capable of running current versions of those applications. Also, make sure your computer is protected from viruses by downloading the latest version of Symantec Endpoint Protection/Anti-Virus software for free here.

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

COURSE SPECIFIC SOFTWARE & HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

- A webcam (built in to your computer or a portable one that can be externally mounted) for taking exams using Respondus Monitor.
- Enough space on your computer to 1) install the required and recommended software and 2) save your course assignments.
- Respondus LockDown Browser (download from the myMason home page or with this link)

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: You are responsible for knowing about all announcements and any syllabus modifications made via Blackboard and/or email.

WEEKS	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE
FOUNDATIONS		
Week 1: Tues. 08/25-Mon. 08/31	Course Orientation and Introduction	Mon. 08/31 by 11:59 pm Introduce yourself on the Padlet wall Complete the Syllabus Quiz
Week 2: Tues. 09/1-Mon. 09/4	Chapter 1: Biopsychology as Neuroscience	Tues. 09/08 (<i>since 09/07 is a holiday</i>) by 11:59 pm: Ch. 1 Activity Ch. 1 Quiz
Week 3: Tues. 09/8-Mon. 09/14	Chapter 3: Anatomy of the Nervous System	Mon 09/14 by 11:59 pm: Ch. 3 TBA Ch. 3 Quiz
Week 4: Tues. 09/15-Mon. 09/21	Chapter 4: Neural Conduction & Synaptic Transmission	Mon 09/21 by 11:59 pm: Ch. 4 Activity Ch. 4 Quiz
Week 5: Tues. 09/22-Mon. 09/28	Chapter 5: Research Methods	Mon 09/28 by 11:59 pm: Ch. 5 Activity Ch.5 Quiz
Week 6: Tues. 09/29-Mon.10/5	Exam 1 Prep and Exam (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5)	Exam 1 opens at 12 am Thurs 10/1; due by 11:59 pm Mon 10/5
MOTIVATED BEHAVIORS		
Week 7: Tues. 10/6-Mon. 10/12	Chapter 12: Biopsychology of Hunger, Eating and Health	Tues. 10/13 (Mon. 10/12 is Fall Break) by 11:59 pm: Ch. 12 Activity Ch. 12 Quiz
Week 8: Tues. 10/13-Mon. 10/19	Chapter 13: Hormones and Sex	Mon. 10/19 by 11:59 pm: Ch. 13 Discussion Board Ch. 13 Quiz
Week 9: Tues. 10/20-Mon.10/26	Chapter 14: Sleep, Dreaming and Circadian Rhythms	Mon. 10/26 by 11:59 pm Ch. 14 Activity Ch. 14 Quiz
Week 10: Tues. 10/27-Mon. Nov. 2	Exam 2 Prep and Exam (Chapters 12, 13, 14)	Exam 2 opens at 12 am Thurs 10/29; due by 11:59 pm Mon 11/02
MODULE 3: Cognition and Emotion		
Week 11: Tues. 11/3-Mon. Nov. 9th	Chapter 11: Learning, Memory, and Amnesia	Monday, November 11 th by 11:59 pm Chapter 11 Discussion Board Chapter 11 Quiz Post News Article to the 5 Minutes of Fame Discussion Board

Week 12: Tues. 11/10-Mon. Nov. 16th	Chapter 16: Lateralization and the Split Brain	Monday, Nov. 16th by 11:59 pm Ch. 16 Activity Ch. 16 Quiz
Week 13: Tues. Mon. 17th-Mon. Nov. 23rd	Chapter 17: Biopsychology of Emotion, Stress, and Health	Mon. 11/23 by 11:59 pm: Ch. 17 Activity Ch. 17 Quiz
Week 14: Tues. Nov. 24th- Mon. Nov.30th	Chapter 18: Biopsychology of Psychiatric Disorders	Tues. Dec. 1st by 11: 59 (<i>since Nov. 26-29 is Thanksgiving</i>) Ch. 18 Activity Ch. 18 Quiz Post your 5 Minutes of Fame Presentation to the Padlet wall
Week 15: Tues. Dec. 1st-Mon. Dec. 7th	Exam 3 Prep and Exam (Chapters 11, 16,17, 18)	Exam 3 opens at 12 am 12/3; due by 11:59 12/7
Week 16: Tues. Dec. 8th- Mon. Dec. 14th Final Exam Period: 12/9-12/16	OPTIONAL CUMULATIVE Final Exam Prep & Exam (All Chapters)	OPTIONAL Final Exam opens 12 am on 12/10, due by 11:59 pm on Mon. Dec. 14th 5 Minutes of Fame Presentations + Summaries due by 5 pm on Mon. Dec. 14th

GRADING:

Assignment	Grade Percentage	Total Points
Chapter Quizzes	10% of the grade	100 (Only the top 10 quizzes, each worth 10 pts will be counted)
Exam I	20% of the grade	200
Exam II	20 % of the grade	200
Exam III	20 % of the grade	200
Reaction Posts	20 % of the grade	200 (Only the top 10 reaction posts, each worth 20 pts, will be counted)
Five Minutes of Fame Assignment	10% of the grade	100 (90 pts Individual Fame Assignment + 10 pts reaction to another student's assignment)
FINAL TOTALS	100%	1000

GRADING SCALE

Breakdown: Assignments/Discussions (15%) + Chapter Quizzes (15%) + Exams (60%) + Presentation (10%) = 100%

Grade	Minimum Points required
A+ (97-100%)	970
A (90-96%)	900
B+ (87-89%)	870
B (80-86%)	800
C+ (77-79%)	770
C (70-76%)	700
D (60-69%)	600
F (59% & below)	590

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

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Reaction Posts on Discussion Boards:

For each chapter, I will either give you an activity or pose thought-provoking questions which are designed to reinforce and/or extend your learning of the chapter material. You will complete these activities after working through the lecture videos and assigned reading(s) but before you take the chapter quiz. Exams will contain questions relating to these activities. Scores will be assigned based on a rubric (see Blackboard). Any discussion board post submitted after the deadline will be given a grade of zero. There are a total of 11 activities/questions for the course; however, the lowest score for this will be dropped. These activities/discussions will account for 20% of your final grade.

Chapter Quizzes:

Following completion of all other tasks for a chapter, you will 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 and timed. Each quiz may be taken a total of 2 times, with the highest score counting toward your grade. Quizzes must be completed BY (not at) 11:59 pm on their specific due dates (see Schedule at a Glance). There will be a total of 12 chapter quizzes (including a syllabus quiz), and your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. Thus 10 quizzes will count toward your final grade for a total of 10% of your final grade.

Exams:

There will be a total of three exams consisting of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. Each exam is worth 200 points. Exams are not open book/note and will be timed. Each student will be videotaped during exams using the Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor; thus, a webcam is required for exams. Each exam accounts for 20% of your final grade (60% total). There is an optional cumulative final exam which may be taken to replace

the lowest of your 3 exam scores. Because you can drop an exam and take the optional final, make-up exams will only be administered in very extenuating circumstances. The student is responsible for contacting the instructor to discuss the possibility of a make-up exam.

“5 Minutes of Fame” Presentation:

Each student will select a news item describing a recent biopsychology study and create a 5-minute presentation based on the news item AND the actual scientific journal article. This will be done using Padlet’s screen recording feature. You will share the link to your news item in advance using a dedicated Class Discussion Board forum (see schedule below). In addition to recording your own presentation, you will select and watch 2 other students’ presentations and write 1-paragraph summaries of each presentation you watch. Your presentation and summaries will together account for 10% of your final grade.

EXTRA-CREDIT:

There will be an optional synchronous session every week where I’ll go over class announcements, explain assignments, review difficult concepts and answer student questions. While these are entirely voluntary, if you attend at minimum five of these sessions, you can get 1% added to your letter grade (equivalent to 10 points out of a total of 1000 points). This is an all or nothing deal, so if you attend less sessions than 5, you won’t receive the extra credit.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: This is an online class and attendance is treated differently from traditional classrooms. You will be presented with multiple avenues for accessing instructional materials and interaction, from completing individual assignments to participating in Discussion boards. You should strive to keep up with the assignments to show that you are “attending” and participating.

DISCUSSION BOARD POLICIES:

You will be involved in the learning process through active class participation and application of material to “real life” topics. You are expected to contribute to a collegial atmosphere by offering your own ideas and encouraging ideas of others on topics relevant to this course. Please see the Discussion Board page on Blackboard for discussion etiquette rules.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

- 1.) Discussion Board posts submitted after the deadline will be given a grade of zero, and makeups are not allowed.
- 2.) Any chapter quiz submitted late will receive a grade of zero. Because the lowest grade will be dropped, chapter quizzes cannot be made up.
- 3.) 5 Minutes of Fame presentations submitted after the deadline will be subject to a 10% per day late penalty.
- 4.) Late exams will only be permitted in very extenuating circumstances with medical or similar documentation and will generally incur a grade penalty of 10% per day. If you fail to take Exams 1, 2 or 3 within 10 days of the deadline, and do not have documentation, you will need to plan on taking the final exam in order to make up for the missing grade. In rare instances, students who

provide written medical or similar documentation explaining an inability to complete course requirements for an extended period of time may be allowed to make up certain types and amounts of coursework at my discretion. Students are responsible for checking the GMU Academic Calendar and making sure they are available to complete coursework throughout the entire semester. For an online course this means ensuring you have reliable Internet access from beginning to end. Exams and other work may not be postponed due to travel occurring during the semester, whether planned or not; nor can the final exam be taken earlier than the scheduled timeframe.

INSTRUCTOR-STUDENT COMMUNICATION:

I will respond to your emails within 48 hours. If I will be away from email for more than one day, I will post an announcement in the Blackboard course folder. Before sending an email, please check the following (available on your Blackboard course menu) unless the email is of a personal nature:

1. Syllabus
2. FAQs
3. Ask the Professor Discussion Board Forum
4. On-demand Blackboard videos on how to use Blackboard features, and Technical Requirements.
5. Feel free to respond to other students in the Ask the Professor forum if you know the answer.

CORONAVIRUS RELATED RESOURCES:

For the most up-to-date resources on Mason's safe return to campus, check [Mason's main website](#), the College's weekly email newsletter, or follow us on social media ([Twitter/Instagram](#)) as we continue to share important information on the evolving situation with you as it becomes available.

COURSE TECHNOLOGY USE:

Several Internet-related materials are required for access to and success in this course, including the following:

1. A hard-wired, high-speed Internet connection: ***Non-stable or slow Internet connections will not excuse failures to complete any assignments or exams by dates due.***
2. A functioning gmu.edu e-mail account: Personal e-mail accounts will not suffice for correspondence for this course, as you will only be contacted via their GMU-affiliated e-mail addresses.
3. Downloading capability: You must have regular access to a computer onto which they can download and use the Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor for testing throughout the course.
4. Microsoft Office: Word access: You must have regular access to a computer onto which they can create, save, and submit written assignments in (.doc) or (.docx) format.
5. Blackboard familiarity: This course is delivered and conducted entirely online via the GMU Blackboard. As registrants in this course, you can (a) access the Student Tutorial or (b) contact

the Help Desk or (c) refer to the Tech Support tab in the upper right-hand corner of the course site for more information. You can find the following on BB:

a. Course materials: Various course materials (syllabus, reading materials, notes, guidelines/grading criteria for assignments, projects, and proposal) are/will be available from this site.

b. Online discussion: Discussion of and reflection on course content, inside and outside of class.

c. Grades/Progress updates: You may get an update of their current course grades periodically. 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, and notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. You 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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

1. Academic Integrity: Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. This includes: not cheating on exams or homework assignments (e.g., copying the work of others or using crib notes), not passing off someone else's ideas as your own (plagiarism), not engaging in dishonesty of any kind with regard to your class participation and assignments.

a. Honor Code: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information. You in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be reported according to GMU procedures. You must paraphrase any information from a source into your own words. Do not copy anything word for word, even if you are citing the source. Direct quotes are not accepted in discussion board posts or presentations. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student's.

b. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. Unless otherwise stated in class, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, as does failure to use your own words. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the

assignment, and, depending upon the severity of the violation, you may fail the class. Here is an online quiz that you can take to check your knowledge about what is and is not plagiarism: <http://www.easybib.com/guides/quiz-is-it-plagiarism/>.

2. Copyright Statement: George Mason University holds the copyright on all materials prepared by me for this course (lecture slides/videos, assignment questions, quiz and exam questions, chapter study questions). Reproducing or sharing these materials outside of our course (e.g. on study websites such as Course Hero, Quizlet, or Study Blue) is a copyright violation and will be reported to the Copyright Office. Students who violate the University Copyright Policy may place themselves individually at risk for liability in the event of a claim of copyright infringement.

3. 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/>

4. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing.

5. Enrollment: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu). After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

6. Disability Services: Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

10. Diversity: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected.

11. Notice of a mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee”, and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling & Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu.

12. Religious Holidays: A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. See the Religious Holiday Calendar. Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:

George Mason University Writing Center <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Counseling & Psychological Services <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

University Career Services <http://careers.gmu.edu/>

Student Health Services <http://shs.gmu.edu/>

University Libraries <http://library.gmu.edu/distance>
<https://infoguides.gmu.edu/?b=s>