**Biopsychology Lab**

**PSYC 373-207 (Fall 2020)**

**Instructor:** Rafael Hoyos Justiniano ([rhoyosju@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:rhoyosju@masonlive.gmu.edu))

**Class Time:** Videos posted to BB by Thursday 7:30 PM

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:30 – 11:30 AM or by appointment

**Class Location:** ONLINE

**Goals of Lab**: The primary goal of this lab is for students to become familiar with brain structure and function through lectures and dissection videos/activities. The course will begin with a broad survey of cellular neuroscience, behavioral neuroscience, and histology. The course will then focus on the specific structures found in sheep brain/eye dissections, including location and function.

**Optional text:**

Cooley, R. K., & Vanderwolf, C.H. (2001). The Sheep Brain: A Basic Guide. A.J. Kirby Co.: London. (not required)

**Attendance/Lecture Videos**: Instead of strict times for meeting online, multiple lecture/lab videos will be posted for each week. The material covered in the videos will be the basis of quizzes, exams, and lab reports. As such it is extremely important that everyone watches all the lecture/lab videos throughout the course. Videos will be labeled with the date they should be watched. To make sure that everyone is watching the videos, I will include a passphrase at a random point in the week’s video (Thursday). An assignment labeled “Attendance” will be posted on Blackboard. To receive credit for that class you will need to type in the passphrase by midnight of the next day (Friday by 11:59 PM). Attendance will be worth 10% of your total grade.

**Quizzes:** The quizzes will be based on lecture material covered in class. This will cover the information not directly tied to the dissection itself. As such, these quizzes will not require identification of brain structures as observed through dissection unless specifically stated. Quizzes will be open notebook, with no strict time limit, however, they should be worked on individually, without the help of others. There will be 2 quizzes total, with each individual quiz being worth 5% of your total grade.

**Lab Reports**: Students will be asked to complete eight lab reports throughout the course. The lab reports will consist of short answer questions and brain structure identification. Each individual report will be worth 5% of your total grade (40% total)

**Lab Practical Exams:** These exams consist of identification and/or questions regarding brain structures. A PowerPoint with images of pinned brain structure will be provided. Students will have at least 24 hours to complete the exam. Exams will be open notebook, with no strict time limit, however, they should be worked on individually, without the help of others. There will be 2 practical exams total, Practical 1 will cover Brain Tours I & II and is worth 15% of your total grade. Practical II is a cumulative final, and will cover Brain Tours I, II, III, IV, as well as the eye dissection, and is worth 25% of your total grade. Mock Practicals will be assigned the week before the Practical. These Mock Practicals will not be worth points, and will instead be practice tests to prepare for the actual Practical.

**Policy Regarding Late Assignments**: Permission to postpone a quiz or to turn in an assignment late will only be given for very important reasons. All quizzes/practical exams that are missed without prior approval (e.g. ODS, family emergency, etc.) will receive an automatic 0. Lab reports turned in late will immediately receive 10% off the maximum possible score, with a further 10% taken off for every 24 hours it is late.

**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. All assignments should be completed individually, without the help of classmates or other peers. This includes, quizzes, lab reports, and lab practical exams. I reserve the right to enter a failing grade to 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, then I will notify students via email, and I will reorganize the class schedule in order to address all material. Due dates for quizzes, practicals, and/or assignments will be changed if necessary.

**Technology Statement:** Required knowledge of technology for this course includes ability to retrieve handouts, watch videos, and turn in assignments sent via email to your GMU address or posted on Blackboard (mymason.gmu.edu).

**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 students only): 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.

**Grading:**

Practical I: 15%

Practical II (cumulative): 25%

Quizzes (2): 10% (5% each)

Lab Reports (8): 40% (5% each)

Attendance/ Lecture Video Response (9): 10% (1% each + 1 free point)

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)

**Important dates:**

First day of classes: August 24th

Last day to add classes: August 31st

Last day to drop with no tuition penalty: September 8th

Selective withdrawal period (undergraduate only): September 29th – October 28th

Last day of classes: December 5th

You are responsible for any/all announcements and syllabus modifications made by me through Blackboard announcements.

**All Assignments are due by 11:59 PM of the scheduled due date unless otherwise stated over email**

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| **Date** | **Tentative Course Schedule:** | **Assignments** **Due:** |
| August 27th | Syllabus Overview  Lecture 1: Introduction to Biopsychology | 8/30: Lecture 1 Attendance |
| September 3rd | Lecture 2: Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential  Lab Report 1 Guide: Explaining MetaNeuron | 9/6: Lecture 2 Attendance  9/9: Lab Report 1  9/9: Quiz 1 |
| September 10th | Lecture 3: Histology | 9/13: Lecture 3 Attendance  9/16: Lab Report 2 |
| September 17th | Lecture 4: Behavioral Neuroscience | 9/20: Lecture 4 Attendance  9/23: Lab Report 3 |
| September 24th | Lecture 5: Brain Tour I (Surface Structures) | 9/27: Lecture 5 Attendance  9/30: Lab Report 4 |
| October 1st | Lecture 6: Brain Tour II (Cranial Nerves) | 10/4: Lecture 6 Attendance  10/7: Lab Report 5 |
| October8th | Mock Practical 1 |  |
| October 15th | **Practical 1 Available** | **10/16: Practical 1 DUE** |
| October 22nd | Lecture 7: Visual System (Eye Dissection) | 10/25: Lecture 7 Attendance  10/28: Lab Report 6  10/28: Quiz 2 |
| October 29th | Lecture 8: Brain Tour III (Midsagittal Brain Dissection) | 11/1: Lecture 8 Attendance  11/4: Lab Report 7 |
| November 5th | Lecture 9: Brain Tour Part IV (Coronal Brain Dissection­) | 11/8: Lecture 9 Attendance  11/11: Lab Report 8 |
| November 12th | Mock Practical 2 |  |
| November 19nd | **Practical 2 Available** | **11/20: Practical 2 DUE** |
| November 26th | No class – Thanksgiving Break |  |