PSYC 373-201

Biopsychology Laboratory

Spring 2021

Instructor: Isabella Lalena

Email Address: [ilalena@gmu.edu](mailto:ilalena@gmu.edu)

Office Hours: By Appointment

Teaching Assistant: N/A

**Recommended Prerequisites/Corequisites**

PSYC 372 or PSYC 375

**University Catalog Course Description**

Functional anatomy and physiology of the brain, including dissection of brain and eye, and a demonstration and practice in research methods for studying physiological mechanisms underlying behavior. Limited to three attempts.

**Optional Texts**

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

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be held entirely online, in an asynchronous format. Content will be delivered via PowerPoint slides, which will be available on Blackboard. Students must complete lab reports, which will be due on Blackboard at specific dates throughout the semester (see the Tentative Class Schedule at the bottom of syllabus). Quizzes and exams will also be administered through Blackboard at specific dates (see the Tentative Class Schedule).

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

Students are expected to submit all assignments/quizzes/exams on Blackboard by the due date. Late work will not be accepted unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor.

Lab Practical Exams

There will be two practical exams, consisting of questions regarding pinned brain structures. There will be no make-ups for a missed practical unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor.

* Practical I will cover Brain Tours I & II and is worth 15% of your grade
* Practical II is a cumulative final and is worth 25% of your grade
* 40% total

Quizzes

There will be two quizzes, based on lecture material covered in the PowerPoint slides. Quiz questions can take the form of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, diagram labelling, and/or short answer. There will be no make-ups for a missed quiz unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor.

* Each quiz is worth 10% of your grade
* 20% total

Lab Reports

Students will complete four lab reports concerning (1) action potential simulations, (2) color perception and blind spots, (3) behavioral neuroscience and histology, and (4) EEG and brain rhythms. Lab reports are due via a provided Blackboard link. Reports that are not submitted before the deadline will not be graded and will receive a 0.

* Each lab report is worth 10% of your grade
* 40% total

**Grading Scale**

A+ (97-100%)

A (93-96%)

1. (90-92%)

B+ (87-89%)

B (83-86%)

1. (80-82%)

C+ (77-79%)

C (73-76%)

1. (70-72%)

D (60-69%)

F (59% and below)

**Class Cancellation Policy:** If class is cancelled, the instructor will notify students via Blackboard or email.

**The Honor Code**

Students are expected to adhere to the GMU Honor Code for all assignments, quizzes, and exams in this course. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. More information about the Honor Code can be found at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>. Violations of the Honor Code will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

**Disability Help**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resources Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Miscellaneous**

All official communications from the instructor will be delivered via Blackboard or GMU email. Students are responsible for the content sent to their Mason email account and are required to check it regularly. As a tip, please include your G-number and the course section in the subject of the email in all email correspondences with all instructors.

**Notice of 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 1202. 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 and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

**Tentative Class Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Activities and Exams** | **Assignments due on Blackboard:** |
| Jan. 25 | Introduction to Neurophysiology (Lecture 1) |  |
| Feb. 1 | Action Potentials (Lecture 2) |  |
| Feb. 8 | **Quiz 1** on Blackboard due on September 9 by 11:59PM  Brain Tour I: Surface Structure Identification (Lecture 3) | **Lab Report 1** - due Feb. 8 by 11:59PM |
| Feb. 15 | Brain Tour II: Cranial Nerves (Lecture 4) |  |
| Feb. 22 | Practical I Review |  |
| Mar. 1 | **Lab Practical I** on Blackboard due Mar. 1 by 11:59PM |  |
| Mar. 8 | The Visual System (Lecture 5) |  |
| Mar. 15 | **Quiz 2** on Blackboard due on Mar. 15 by 11:59PM  Midsagittal Dissection (Lecture 6, part 1) | **Lab Report 2** - due Mar. 15 by 11:59PM |
| Mar. 22 | Coronal Dissection (Lecture 6, part 2) |  |
| Mar. 29 | Practical II Review |  |
| Apr. 5 | **Lab Practical II** on Blackboard due Apr. 5 by 11:59PM |  |
| Apr. 12 | Histology & Behavioral Neuroscience (Lecture 7) |  |
| Apr. 19 | Cognitive Neuroscience & EEG (Lecture 8) | **Lab Report 3** – due Apr. 19 by 11:59PM |
| Apr. 26 |  | **Lab Report 4 –** due Apr. 26 by 11:59PM |

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.