

Instructor

Erin Doherty

Email

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Grading Scale

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 65-69%

F 64% & under

Important Dates

Last day to add/drop:
Wed. June 23

Selective withdrawal:
Wed. July 7 - Wed. July
14

Last day of class/exams:
Sat. July 24

COURSE OVERVIEW

This is the second half of a two-part course on the relationship between the nervous system, cognition, and behavior. In the first half (PSYC 372 or 375), you learned about neurons and neuronal function, basic brain anatomy, and the sensory systems (auditory, visual, somatosensory and chemical). In this course, you will learn about the neurobiological bases of selected behaviors and cognitive processes. Students will (1) further their understanding of the fundamental principles and theories of neuroscience and the neural underpinnings of the behavior; (2) approach topics in the field critically by learning how researchers develop and test hypotheses; (3) apply in-class concepts to everyday situations.

TEXTBOOK - PDF AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD

Bear, M. F. (2015). *Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain* (4th ed.).

COURSE COMPONENTSLectures:

Lectures will be posted for each respective chapter topic, as listed in the *tentative course schedule* (see page 4). You are responsible for studying the material covered in each lecture, as this will be the basis for all graded work. Lectures will be recorded and made available indefinitely from time of posting.

Weekly Reviews (5 x 8% each = 40% total):

After viewing all lecture content for the week, you will complete a *weekly review* on Blackboard. Review questions will be multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short-answer format, and will cover material that you should expect to see on exams. You may use your notes, but each review may only be attempted once.

Exams (2 x 30% each = 60% total):

There will be a total of two exams consisting of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short-answer questions. *Notes may be used, but exams are timed once opened in Blackboard, and may only be taken once.* Exam 1: Chapters 13-18; Exam 2 (non-cumulative): Chapters 19-22 and 24-25.

TECHNOLOGY

Access to GMU student email and the [myMason Portal](#) for Blackboard are required to participate successfully in this course. Important information, such as the syllabus, textbook, slides, and assignments, will be posted and updated on our course Blackboard page. Grades will also be posted on Blackboard and you are expected to regularly check your grades and let me know of any problems before the semester is over.

DEADLINES

Any weekly review assignment submitted late will be docked 10% for each week following its due date. *Late exams will only be permitted with medical or similar documentation.* 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. *Please e-mail me as soon as possible.* 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.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are a student with a documented disability and need academic accommodations, please speak with me as soon as possible, and contact Disability Services (709-993-2474; ods@gmu.edu). *All academic accommodations must be arranged through this office.* For assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation, students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu). I can help with referrals for students with particular counseling needs.

HONOR CODE

Students in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code. If you are using someone else's work as a source, you must cite it. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student's. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade for the assignment to any student found guilty of an honor code violation. You may view the current Honor Code here: <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>

DIVERSITY

In our online classroom, it is important to have an inclusive learning experience. As with the Mason Diversity Statement, “diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation,” and economic status. Being thoughtful and respectful of people’s opinions and backgrounds will help stimulate your environment and learning experience.

TITLE IX

George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct speaks to the specifics of Mason’s process, the resources, and the options available to students. Any faculty or staff member at Mason is required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator, but please know that such reports will result only in someone reaching out to you directly to let you know about available services and to determine if you wish to take any action. That said, you can also contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380) to speak to someone confidentially, as individuals who work in those offices are not required to report disclosures. You may also seek assistance directly from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	CHAPTER	ASSIGNMENTS
1 6/21 - 6/26	Course Introduction	Syllabus	Week 1 Review due by 6/26 11:59 PM
	Spinal Control of Movement	13	
	Brain Control of Movement	14	
2 6/27 - 7/3	Chemical Control of the Brain & Behavior	15	Week 2 Review due by 7/3 11:59 PM
	Motivation	16	
	Sex & the Brain	17	
3 7/4 - 7/10	Brain Mechanisms of Emotion	18	Week 3 Review due by 7/9 11:59 PM
	Brain Rhythms & Sleep	19	Exam 1 (Ch. 13-18) due by 7/10 11:59 PM
4 7/11 - 7/17	Language	20	Week 4 Review due by 7/17 11:59 PM
	The Resting Brain, Attention, & Consciousness	21	
	Mental Illness	22	
5 7/18 - 7/24	Memory Systems	24	Week 5 Review due by 7/23 11:59 PM
	Molecular Mechanisms of Learning & Memory	25	Exam 2 (Ch. 19-22, 24-25) due by 7/24 11:59 PM

Note: You are responsible for knowing about all announcements and any syllabus modifications made via Blackboard and/or email. Please contact me right away if you have any questions!