**PSYC 372-002 Physiological Psychology M/W 1:30-2:45pm**

**Instructor Information**

Karin Pedemonte Email: kpedemon@gmu.edu

Office: Zoom Office Hours: W 12:00-1:00pm

**Course Description**

The goal of this course is to provide students with an introduction to physiological psychology. We will relate what is happening in the brain to specific behaviors. We will start with an overview of what neurons are and how they communicate. We will then delve into sensory systems, emotions, and learning and memory throughout the semester. The course will end with an overview of common psychological disorders.

**Required Text**

Biological Psychology, 13th Edition. James W. Kalat, Cengage Learning

**Course Requirements**

**Powerpoint Lectures**

* Lectures will be posted on blackboard and presented in class.

**Quizzes (150 points)**

* There will be 15 blackboard quizzes throughout the semester, one for each chapter.
* Each quiz will be worth 10 points each.
* Each quiz will be posted on the day that the corresponding lecture is presented.
* You have 15 minutes to complete each quiz.
* Quizzes will be due the day of each exam.
  + Quiz 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be due BEFORE exam 1
  + Quiz 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will be due BEFORE exam 2
  + Quiz 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 will be due BEFORE exam 3

\*See tentative schedule below for exact dates of exams

**Course Exams (300 points)**

Students will be tested on their understanding of the material learned in class.

* There will be 3 exams for this class. Each worth 100 points.
* You have the class period to complete each exam.
* Exams will be in class.

**Course Final (100 points)**

Students will be tested on their cumulative understanding of the material learned in class.

* OPTIONAL!
* Replace a missed exam or a low exam score to try to improve overall grade.

**Technology**

Students will be expected to access and use Blackboard on a regular basis. Important information, such as the syllabus, slides, articles, and assignments, will be posted and updated here. Grades will also be posted on Blackboard and you are expected to check your grades and let me know of any problems **before** the semester is over. To access Blackboard log in at: http://mymason.gmu.edu, click on the Courses tab and locate your course link in the Course List. In addition, students should check their GMU email account regularly.

**Lectures**

Lecture material will come from the assigned textbook, additional readings and other sources. You are responsible for all material covered in the lectures.

**The Honor Code**

Students in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code. (http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm). For all work, the name that appears on the paper must be the author. If you are using someone else’s work as a source, cite it. Please see details available at the website above. 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.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 709-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Psychological Services**

Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu) for assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation. I can help with referrals for students with particular counseling needs.

**Official Communications via GMU E-mail**

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.

**Add/Drop Deadlines**

Last Day to Add Classes: August 30, 2021

Final Drop Deadline (No Tuition Penalty): September 7, 2021

**Grade Breakdown**

Total Possible Points: 450

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Percent |
| 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 | <60 |

**Class Cancellations** – please check your email and the university website in case of an unexpected cancellation and for updates in the event of a university closing.

**Course Schedule and Due Dates**

The schedule below is *tentative.* Dates/topics are subject to change; the empty days are there for overflow when lectures don’t fit in the class. All modifications will be addressed with sufficient notice via email, and updates on Blackboard.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment Due** |
| August 23 | Introduction (Ch 0) |  |
| August 25 | Ch 1: Nervous System |  |
| August 30 | Ch 2: Synapses |  |
| September 1 | Ch 3: Anatomy & Research Methods |  |
| September 6 | Labor Day | No Class |
| September 8 | Ch 4: Genetics, Evolution, Development and Plasicity |  |
| September 13 | Overflow/Review |  |
| September 15 | EXAM 1 | Quiz 0/1/2/3/4 (@ 1pm) |
| September 20 | Ch 5: Vision |  |
| September 22 | Ch 6: Other Sensory Systems |  |
| September 27 | Ch 7: Movement |  |
| September 29 | Ch 8: Sleep |  |
| October 4 | Ch 9: Internal Regulation |  |
| October 6 | Overflow |  |
| October 11 | Columbus Day | No Class |
| October 12 | Overflow—if needed |  |
| October 13 | Overflow/Review |  |
| October 18 | EXAM 2 | Quiz 5,6,7,8,9 (@1pm) |
| October 20 | Ch 10: Reproductive Behaviors |  |
| October 25 | Ch 11: Emotional Behaviors |  |
| October 27 | Ch 12: Biology of Learning and Memory |  |
| November 1 | Ch 13: Cognitive Functions |  |
| November 3 | Ch 14: Psychological Disorders |  |
| November 8 | Overflow/Review |  |
| November 10 | EXAM 3 | Quiz 10/11/12/13/14 (@1pm) |
| November 15 | SfN: Out of Town | No Class |
| November 17 | SfN: Out of Town | No Class |
| November 22 | Thanksgiving | No Class |
| November 24 | Thanksgiving | No Class |
| November 29 | TBD |  |
| December 1 | FINAL (OPTIONAL!) |  |