**PSYC 373 Physiological Psychology Lab**

**ONLINE**

**Instructor Information**

**Instructor:** Karin Pedemonte **Email:** kpedemon@gmu.edu

**Office Hours:** W 12:00 – 1:00 PM  **Office Location:** Zoom

**Goals of Lab**: The primary goal of this lab is for students to become familiar with brain structure and function through lectures and dissection. The course will begin with a broad survey of cellular neuroscience and then proceed into sheep brain and eye dissections, paying particular attention to brain structures and functional anatomy. The applied portion of the course will be a broad survey of behavioral neuroscience, histology/microscopy, cognitive neuroscience, and electroencephalography (EEG).

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

**Additional readings:** Additional readings will be distributed via Blackboard. Students are expected to complete the readings prior to class, especially for lab activities and software downloads.

**Lectures:** Lectures will be posted every Monday at 7am (refer to calendar for specific chapters). The material covered in lab lectures will be the basis of lab reports, quizzes and exams, therefore watching and taking notes during the lectures is highly encouraged. Lectures will be recorded and available at all times from time of posting. Since lectures are recorded and can be viewed multiple times and stopped and started, powerpoints will not be provided.

**Dissections:** Since this is an ONLINE class, dissections of sheep brains and eyes will be recorded to watch but cannot be performed by the students.

**Lab Requirements**

**Lab Practical Exams:** These exams consist of identification and/or questions regarding pinned brain structures.  **There will be no make-ups for a missed practical unless you have obtained my approval.** You MUST let me know well in advance that you will miss a practical. If you are sick or have an emergency, then you must let me know ASAP. If you are sick or have an emergency, then you must let me know ASAP.

* 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

Practicals will be available on Mondays from 7:00 am until 9:00 pm (refer to calendar for exact dates).

**Quizzes:** There will be two (2) quizzes and will be based on lecture material covered in class. These quizzes will not require identification of brain structures as observed through dissection. Quiz questions can take the form of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, labeling a diagram, and/or short-answer format. Missed quizzes will receive a 0 and cannot be made up. Quizzes will be open from Monday at 7:00am (when lectures are posted) until Sundays at 11:59pm (of the same week).

* 10% each
* 20% total

**Lab Reports**: students will complete eight (8) lab reports throughout the semester covering all the class topics. These lab reports will be due via a provided Blackboard at 11:59pm on the due date (Sunday before the next lecture is posted). Reports that are not submitted by the deadline will not be graded and will receive a 0.

* 5% each
* 40% total

**Policy Regarding Late Assignments**:  Permission to postpone a quiz or to turn in an assignment late will only be given for very important and acute reasons. Any make-up quiz will be structured like the original, but the content will be different. The student must obtain written medical documentation or provide justification for an absence from a quiz or other assignment. Any documentation required for excused absences MUST be turned in by the following lab period. If this documentation is not received in a timely manner, then the assignment will not be graded and will receive a 0.

**Policy Regarding “Curving” and Extra Credit:** I will curve only on practicals if the highest grade is not a 100. I will not explicitly announce extra credit on practicals, quizzes, or assignments, although I may have “easter egg” extra credit to administer. Do not ask me for additional extra credit or a chance to redo an assignment for a better grade. I will say no.

**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. Information that is used from an outside source must be cited in correct APA or JNeurosci format. Cheating and plagiarism will be reported to the University Honor Board.

**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. 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 sent via email to your GMU address or posted on Blackboard (mymason.gmu.edu). Occasionally I may use computer programs or the Internet in class to present demonstrations of relevant material. You may also wish to use websites provided by me to study for the lab practical exams.

**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.

**Please note that this course requires active participation in dissection of animal tissue (brain and eye) preserved in fixative as well as potential carcinogenic/teratogenic chemicals that are commonly used in histology. If you have a concern about this, or cannot participate for some reason, please meet with me as soon as possible.**

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:**

Last day to add classes: August 30, 2021

Last day to drop with no tuition penalty: September 7, 2021

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|   Week  | **Tentative Course Schedule:**  | **Assignments** **Due (SUNDAY):**  |
| August 23   | Introduction: Neurophysiology (lecture 1)  |   |
| August 30 | Action potential/postsynaptic potential (lecture 2) | **Quiz 1:** Neurophysiology: AP/PSP (lectures 1 & 2)Lab report 1 due—9/5 @ 11:59pm |
| September 6 | Behavioral neuroscience  | Lab report 2 due—9/12 @ 11:59pm |
| September 13 | Histology | Lab report 3 due—9/19 @ 11:59pm |
| September 20 | Brain tour I: Surface identification & dura mater dissection (lecture 3)  | Lab report 4 due—9/26 @ 11:59pm |
| September 27 | Brain tour II: Cranial nerves dissection (lecture 4)  | Lab report 5 due—10/3@ 11:59pmOptional: Lecture 3 & 4 review |
| October 4 | Review (lectures 3 & 4)  |  |
| October 11 | **Lab practical I (lectures 3 & 4)**  | **MONDAY** 10/11: Open from 7am—9pm |
| October 18 | Visual system & sheep eyeball dissection (lecture 5)  | **Quiz 2:** Visual system (lecture 5) Lab report 6 due—10/24 @ 11:59pm |
| October 25 | Midsagittal dissection (lecture 6)  | Lab report 7 due—10/31 @ 11:59pm |
| November 1 | Coronal dissection (lecture 7)  | Lab report 8 due—11/7 @11:59pmOptional: Lecture 5 & 6 review |
| November 8 | Review (lectures 6 & 7)  |  |
| November 15 | **Lab Practical II (CUMULATIVE: lectures 3 – 6)**  | **MONDAY** 11/15: Open from 7am—9pm |
| November 22 | Thanksgiving  | No Class |
| November 29 | TBD |  |

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