**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Brielmaier

**E-mail address:** jbrielma@gmu.edu

**Office hours:** Mon. 3-4 pm & by appt.

**Zoom link for meetings:** <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/8641621768>

**Appointment scheduling:** <https://brielmaiersontag.youcanbook.me/>

**Course Description and Format:**

This is the second semester of a two-part course on the relationship between the brain and behavior. In the first semester (PSYC 375), you learned about neurons and neuronal function, basic brain anatomy, and the sensory systems (auditory, visual, somatosensory and chemical). In this semester we will explore the neurobiological underpinnings of selected behaviors, cognitive processes, and other psychological phenomena. A special emphasis will be placed on key experimental evidence and clinical applications.

This online course consists of a series of lecture videos and supplementary materials, with Discussion Board posts and exams to be completed online. The course is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to log in at a specific time. There will, however, be weekly deadlines. For the purposes of this course, each week begins on a Tuesday and ends on a Monday (see schedule below for exceptions). All assignments are described below.

**Required Text:** Bear, M.F. (2015). Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain (4th edition). Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins. ISBN: 9781451109542

**Course Objectives:**

* Describe the neural bases of specific behaviors and cognitive processes (neuroanatomical, chemical, genetic, and hormonal influences)
* Explain the neurobiological bases of specific psychiatric and neurological conditions
* Become familiar with the methods used in behavioral neuroscience research
* Expand upon knowledge of course-related topics through sharing and discussion of information with peers and the instructor

**Assignments:**

* **Readings:** You should read the assigned chapters of the textbook *prior to watching* the lecture videos.At certain points during the course, the lectures will coincide closely with the textbook, while at other points the lectures may diverge a bit. In the case of divergence, consider the lecture recordings as the primary material and that from which all exam questions will be derived. **Material from the textbook that is not covered in the slides/videos will NOT be included on exams.**
* **Participation in Chapter Discussion Forums:**  A sense of community is an important element for successful learning in an online course.For each chapter covered in this summer session you will have the opportunity to earn credit for participation on a dedicated discussion forum. You are required to make at least one post to each chapter forum for full credit. The first forum is an “Introduce Yourself” discussion, where you can post information about yourself and what you hope to gain from the course. Subsequent forums are open-ended but posts must be relevant and substantive. Suggestions for posts include questions about a chapter topic or concept, something interesting or surprising that you learned, and/or links (with descriptions!) to interesting videos/articles/resources relevant to the chapter. You can earn participation credit by responding to another student’s post; however, your post must be deemed by me to be substantive and specific. Generic posts such as “great post”, “I agree”, or “good question” will not count. Each post is worth up to 2 points. **Late posts will not be accepted for credit.** However, you are allowed to miss one post without penalty (i.e., 10 out of 11 posts will count toward your grade). Participation in the forums will account for 10% of your final grade.
* **Exams:** There will be a total of four required exams consisting of true/false, multiple choice, and fill in the blank questions. Each exam will cover 2-3 chapters. Exams will be administered via Blackboard using the Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor software. Each exam accounts for 20% of your final grade (80% total). There is an **optional** fifth exam that can be taken during the final exam period to replace your lowest score on exams 1-4. This exam is all multiple choice and cumulative.

**Grading Breakdown:**

Weekly Discussion Posts (10%) + Quizzes (4 x 20% = 80%)

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

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| A+ 97% or above | B+ 87-89%  | C+ 77-79%  | D 60-69% |
| A 93-96% | B 83-86% | C 73-76% | F 59% & below |
| A- 90-92% | B- 80-82% | C- 70-72% |  |

Incomplete (IN) grades will be assigned only in cases of compelling and documented need, in accordance with policies set forth in the University Catalog.

# Schedule (any changes will be announced on Blackboard/via email)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Topic** | **Assignments Due** |
| Week 1Tues 06/07 - Mon 06/13 | Getting Started/Course IntroductionChapter 13: Spinal Control of MovementChapter 14: Brain Control of Movement | **Mon 06/13 by 11:59 pm:*** Review technology, links, course overview, basic concepts on Getting Started page
* Post to Introduce Yourself Forum
* Post to Ch. 13 Forum
* Post to Ch. 14 Forum
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| Week 2Tue 06/14 - Tues 06/2106/15 Last Day to Drop | **EXAM 1: Chapters 13 & 14**Chapter 15: Chemical Control of the Brain and Behavior | **Tues 06/21 by 11:59 pm:*** Complete Quiz 1
* Post to Ch. 15 Forum
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| Week 3Tue 06/21 - Mon 06/27 | Chapter 16: MotivationChapter 19: Brain Rhythms and Sleep | **Mon 06/27 by 11:59 pm:** * Post to Ch. 16 Forum
* Post to Ch. 19 Forum
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| Week 4Tue 06/28 - Tues 07/05 | **EXAM 2: Chapters 15, 16, 19** Chapter 20: Language | **Tues 07/05 by 11:59 pm:** * Complete Quiz 2
* Post to Ch. 20 Forum
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| Week 5Tue 07/05 - Mon 07/11 | Chapter 24: Memory Systems Chapter 25: Molecular Mechanisms of Learning/Memory | **Mon 03/01 by 11:59 pm:** * Post to Ch. 24 Forum
* Post to Ch. 25 Forum

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| Week 6Tue 07/12 - Mon 07/18 | **EXAM 3: Chapters 20, 24, 25**Chapter 18: Brain Mechanisms of Emotion | **Mon 03/08 by 11:59 pm:** * Complete Quiz 3
* Post to Ch. 18 Forum
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| Week 7Tue 07/19 - Mon 07/25 | Chapter 22: Mental Disorders **EXAM 4: Chapters 18 & 22** | **Mon 03/15 by 11:59 pm:** * Post to Ch. 22 Forum
* Complete Quiz 4
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| Week 8Tue 07/26 - Sat 07/30 | **OPTIONAL Final Exam (all chapters)** | **Sat 07/30 by 11:59 pm:*** Complete OPTIONAL Quiz
* Complete Course Evaluation
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**Last day to add:** June 9

**Last day to drop** (50% tuition refund): June 15

**Unrestricted withdrawal period** (no tuition refund): June 16-23

**Selective withdrawal period**: June 24 - July 12

**Commitment to an inclusive learning environment:** Your experience in this class is important to me. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds, perspectives and circumstances be well served by this course and that students’ learning needs are addressed. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of your achievement, please notify me as soon as possible and/or contact the Office of Disability Services. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit [ods.gmu.edu](https://ds.gmu.edu/)for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474.

**Late/makeup work policy:**

Summer courses move quickly and it is important to stay on top of deadlines. As noted above, late discussion forum posts will not receive credit. A 10% per day late penalty will be applied to exams submitted after the deadline. Extensions will only be given to those with the relevant accommodations from the Office of Disability Services or for very acute and important reasons, at my discretion.

Students are responsible for checking the GMU Academic Calendar and making sure they are available to complete coursework throughout the entire session. For an online course this means ensuring you have reliable Internet access from beginning to end. **Coursework may not be postponed due to travel occurring during the session.**

**Technology statement:**

Required knowledge of technology for this course includes ability to access course materials posted on Blackboard and/or sent via email to your GMU address. To log in to Blackboard, go to the MyMason portal at https://mymason.gmu.edu, enter your PatriotPass credentials (i.e., your Mason email username and password), and select the Courses tab. **Please be sure that you have continuous access to Blackboard and that your GMU email account is active.**

The technology requirements for this online course are as follows:

**Hardware:**

* A Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and to a fast, reliable broadband Internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL).
* Recommended computer monitor and laptop screen size of 13 inches or larger, for optimum visibility of course material.
* Computer speakers or headphones to listen to recorded content.
* A headset microphone for live audio sessions using course tools like Blackboard Collaborate.
* **A webcam** (built in to your computer or a portable one that can be externally mounted) for taking exams using Respondus Monitor.
* Enough space on your computer to install the required and recommended software

**Software:**

* Web browser (See [Blackboard Support](http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/Students/) for supported web browsers)
* Blackboard Courses (Log into [http://mymason.gmu.edu](https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/), select the Courses Tab)
* Blackboard Collaborate (select from the course menu)
* Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download](http://get.adobe.com/reader/))
* Flash Player ([free download](http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/))
* Microsoft Office ([purchase](http://compstore.gmu.edu/products/microsoft/))
* Respondus LockDown Browser (download from the myMason home page or with this [link](http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=133435885))

For hardware and software purchases, visit [Patriot Computers](http://compstore.gmu.edu/).

**Official Communications via GMU Email:**

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 email account, and are required to activate that account and **check it regularly**.

**Copyright statement:** In accordance with university policy, I hold the copyright on all course materials prepared by me (lecture slides/videos, problem set questions, quiz and exam questions, chapter study questions). Reproducing or sharing these materials outside of our course (e.g. on study websites such as Course Hero, Quizlet, or Study Blue) is a copyright violation and will be reported to the Copyright Office. Students who violate the University Copyright Policy may place themselves individually at risk for liability in the event of a claim of copyright infringement.

**Academic integrity:** This course will be conducted in accordance with the GMU Honor Code, and all students are expected to abide by it. The GMU Honor Code, as found in the University Catalog, is as follows: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work (http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid= 1039&returnto=search#Honor). Details concerning the university’s Honor System and Code can be found in the University Catalog (accessible online at the above link). If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor or utilize the GMU writing center. Here is an online quiz that you can take to check your knowledge about what is and is not plagiarism: <http://www.easybib.com/guides/quiz-is-it-plagiarism/>

**Resources for Students:**

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| Safe Return to Campus  | <https://www2.gmu.edu/Safe-Return-Campus> |
| University Writing Center | <http://masononline.gmu.edu/student-resources/writingcenter> |
| University Libraries  | <http://library.gmu.edu/> |
| Counseling & Psych Services | <http://caps.gmu.edu/> |
| University Career Services | <http://careers.gmu.edu/> |
| Student Health Services | <http://shs.gmu.edu/> |
| Student Support and Advocacy | <https://ssac.gmu.edu/> |

**Religious holidays:** Please refer to George Mason University’s calendar of religious holidays and observations (http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious -holiday-calendar/). It is the student's responsibility to speak to the instructor in advance should their religious observances impact their participation in class activities and assignments.

**Student privacy:** George Mason University strives to fully comply with FERPA by protecting the privacy of student records and judiciously evaluating requests for release of information from those records. Please see George Mason University’s student privacy policy <https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/>