PSYC 372-DL1: Biopsychology (3 credits)

Spring 2023

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Instructor: Ms. Keri Gladhill
Email: kgladhil@gmu.edu
Class time and location:
Online
Campus office location: Fairfax, David King Hall 2025C
Office Phone: N/A
Virtual Office Hours: By appointment only

Last day to add January 30th
Last day to drop with 100% tuition refund February 6th
Last day to drop with 50% tuition refund February 13th

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Physiological psychology is considered to be a sub-area of biopsychology, which also includes psychophysiology, neuropsychology, psychopharmacology, comparative psychology and cognitive neuroscience. Regardless of the approach, all of these areas share the goal of understanding the biological component of human behavior. A special emphasis will be placed on clinical applications of course material and on biopsychology research findings that have shed light on the intricacies of the brain-behavior relationship.

This course will consist of a series of lectures, individual assignments, class discussions, quizzes, and exams to be completed online. The course is asynchronous, meaning that you may complete all assigned tasks at your own pace (i.e., there are no required virtual or in-person meeting times). However, there are weekly deadlines and exams will occur on specific dates. All course tasks are described in detail below.

BLACKBOARD LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

Access to MyMason and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format BEFORE the first day of class. Check the IT Support Center website. Navigate to the Student Support page for help and information about Blackboard. In the menu bar to the left you will find all the tools you need to become familiar with for this course. Take time to learn each. Make sure you run a system check a few days before class. Become familiar with the attributes of Blackboard and online learning.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Pinel JPJ (2021) *Biopsychology*, 11th *Edition*. ISBN-13: 9780137588596 (should be listed in Mason

bookstore)

Click Here for Textbook

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:
1. Compare and contrast the various subfields and research approaches within biopsychology
2. Describe the basic layout and major functions of the nervous system
3. Describe the biological underpinnings of normal and abnormal behaviors
4. Apply learning in the course to "real life" topics and problems

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Hardware: You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and access to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to listen to recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required taking a distance education course, consider and allow for:

1. the storage amount needed to install any additional software and
2. space to store work that you will do for the course.

If you consider the purchase of a new computer, please go to Technology Buying Guide to see recommendations.

Software: Many courses use Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See supported browsers and operating systems. Log in to myMason to access your registered courses. Some courses may use other learning management systems. Check the syllabus or contact the instructor for details. Online courses typically use Acrobat Reader, Flash, Java, and Windows Media Player, and/or Real Media Player. Your computer should be capable of running current versions of those applications. Also, make sure your computer is protected from viruses by downloading the latest version of Symantec Endpoint Protection/Anti-Virus software for free here.

Students owning Macs or Linux should be aware that some courses may use software that only runs on Windows. You can set up a Mac computer with Boot Camp or virtualization software so Windows will also run on it. Watch this video about using Windows on a Mac. Computers running Linux can also be configured with virtualization software or configured to dual boot with Windows.

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

Course-specific Hardware/Software

Check the syllabus for your course or contact the instructor prior to the start of the course to find out about specific technical requirements for your class. Hardware or software required for your course or program may be available for purchase at Patriot Computers (the University's computer store that offers educational discounts and special deals).

- Enough space on your computer to 1) install the required and recommended software and 2) save your course assignments.
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COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: You are responsible for knowing about all announcements and any syllabus modifications made via Blackboard and/or email.

WEEKS	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
MODULE 1: FOUNDATIONS		
Week 1: Mon 01/23-Mon 01/30 (01/30 Last Day to Add)	Course Orientation and Introduction	**Mon 01/30 by 11:59 pm:** • Introduce yourself on the Padlet wall • Syllabus and Schedule Quiz
Week 2: Tue 01/31-Mon 02/06 (02/06 Last Day to Drop with 100% refund)	Chapter 1: Biopsychology as a Neuroscience	**Mon 02/06 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 1 Group Activity • Ch. 1 Quiz
Week 3: Tue 02/07-Mon 02/13 (02/13 Last Day to Drop with 50% refund)	Chapter 3: Anatomy of the Nervous System	**Mon 02/13 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 3 Kahoot and Group Discussion Board Post • Ch. 3 Quiz
Week 4: Tue 02/14-Mon 02/20	Chapter 4: Neural Conduction & Synaptic Transmission	**Mon 02/20 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 4 Group Activity • Ch. 4 Quiz

WEEKS	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 5: Tue 02/21-Mon 02/27	Chapter 5: Research Methods	**Mon 02/27 by 11:59 pm**: • Ch. 5 Group Activity • Ch. 5 Quiz
Week 6: Tue 02/28-Mon 03/06	Exam 1 Prep and Exam (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5)	**Exam 1: opens at 12 am Thurs 03/02** **Exam 1: due by 11:59 pm Mon 03/06**
MODULE 2: MOTIVATED BEHAVIORS		
Week 7: Tue 03/07-Mon 03/13	Chapter 12: Biopsychology of Hunger, Eating and Health	**Mon 03/13 by 11:59 pm**: • Ch. 12 Group Activity • Ch. 12 Quiz
Week 8: Tue 03/14-Mon 03/20	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 9: Tue 03/21-Mon 03/27	Chapter 13: Hormones and Sex	**Mon 03/27 by 11:59 pm**: • Ch. 13 Group Discussion • Ch. 13 Quiz

WEEKS	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 10: Tue 03/28-Mon 04/03	Chapter 14: Sleep, Dreaming and Circadian Rhythms	**Mon 04/03 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 14 Group Activity • Ch. 14 Quiz
Week 11: Tue 04/04-Mon 04/10	Exam 2 Prep and Exam (Chapters 12, 13, 14)	**Exam 2: opens at 12 am Thurs 04/09** **Exam 2: due by 11:59 pm Mon 04/10**
MODULE 3: COGNITION AND EMOTION		
Week 12: Tue 04/11-Mon 04/17	Chapter 11: Learning, Memory, and Amnesia	**Mon 04/17 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 11 Group Discussion • Ch. 11 Quiz • Post your news article to the 5 Min of Fame Discussion Board forum
Week 13: Tue 04/18-Mon 04/24	Chapter 16: Lateralization and the Split Brain	**Mon 04/24 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 16 Group Activity • Ch. 16 Quiz

WEEKS	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 14: Tue 04/25-Mon 05/01	Chapter 17: Biopsychology of Emotion, Stress and Health	**Mon 05/01 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 17 Group Activity • Ch. 17 Quiz
Week 15: Tue 05/02-Mon 05/08	Chapter 18: Biopsychology of Psychiatric Disorders	**Mon 05/08 by 11:59 pm:** • Ch. 18 Group Discussion • Ch.18 Quiz • **Post your "5 Minutes of Fame" Presentation to the Padlet wall**
Week 16: Tue 05/09-Mon 05/15	Exam 3 Prep and Exam (Chapter 11, 16, 17, 18)	**Exam 3 opens at 12 am Thurs 05/11** **Exam 3 due by 11:59 pm Mon 05/15** **5 MOF Presentation summaries due 11:59 pm Mon 05/15**
Final Exam Exam Period 05/10- 05/17	OPTIONAL Final Exam Prep and Exam (All Chapters)	**Final Exam (optional) opens at 12 am Wed 05/10** **Final Exam (optional) due by 11:59 pm Mon 05/17**

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

- **Group Work:** For each chapter we cover you will complete one group activity or discussion via Blackboard. These activities are designed to reinforce and/or extend your learning of the chapter material. You will complete these activities after working through the lecture videos and assigned reading(s) but before you take the chapter quiz. Exams will contain questions relating to these activities. Scores will be assigned based on a rubric (see Blackboard). Though you will be working as a group, you will be graded based on your individual contributions. Any discussion board post submitted after the deadline will be given a grade of zero. These group activities/discussions will account for 15% of your final grade.

- **Chapter Quizzes:** Following completion of all other tasks for a chapter, you will take an online chapter quiz via Blackboard. All quiz questions are multiple-choice and cover topics that will appear on exams. Quizzes are open book/note and timed. Each quiz may be taken a total of 2 times, with the highest score counting toward your grade. Quizzes must be completed BY (not at) 11:59 pm on their specific due dates (see Schedule at a Glance). There will be a total of 12 chapter quizzes (including a syllabus quiz), and your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. Thus 10 quizzes will count toward your final grade for a total of 15% of your final grade.

- **Exams:** There will be a total of three exams consisting of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. Exams are not open book/note and will be timed. Each exam accounts for 20% of your final grade (60% total). There is an optional cumulative final exam which may be taken to replace the lowest of your 3 exam scores.

- **"5 Minutes of Fame" Presentation:** Each student will select a news item describing a recent biopsychology study and create a 5-minute presentation based on the news item and the actual research report. This will be done using Padlet's screen recording feature. You will share the link to your news item in advance using a dedicated Class Discussion Board forum (see schedule below). In addition to recording your own presentation, you will select and watch 5 other students' presentations and write 1-paragraph summaries of each presentation you watch. Your presentation and summaries will together account for 10% of your final grade.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: This is an online class and attendance is treated differently from traditional classrooms. You will be presented with multiple avenues for accessing instructional materials and interaction, from completing individual

assignments to participating in group activities. You should strive to keep up with the assignments that show that you are "attending" and participating.

Group Participation: You will be involved in the learning process through active class participation and application of material to "real life" topics. You are expected to contribute to a collegial atmosphere by offering your own ideas and encouraging ideas of others on topics relevant to this course. Please see the Group Work page on Blackboard for discussion etiquette rules.

Make-up policy: Group Discussion Board posts submitted after the deadline will be given a grade of zero, and make-ups are not allowed. Any chapter quiz submitted late will receive a grade of zero. Because the lowest grade will be dropped, chapter quizzes cannot be made up. 5 Minutes of Fame presentations submitted after the deadline will be subject to a 10% per day late penalty. Late exams will only be permitted with medical or similar documentation and will generally incur a grade penalty of 10% per day. If you fail to take Exams 1, 2 or 3 within 10 days of the deadline, and do not have documentation, you will need to plan on taking the final exam in order to make up for the missing grade.

In rare instances, 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 at my discretion.

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. Exams and other work may not be postponed due to travel occurring during the semester, whether planned or not; nor can the final exam be taken earlier than the scheduled timeframe.

Instructor-Student Communication: I will respond to your emails **within 48 hours.** If I will be away from email for more than one day, I will post an announcement in the Blackboard course folder. Before sending an email, please check the following (available on your Blackboard course menu) unless the email is of a personal nature:

1. Syllabus
2. FAQs
3. Ask the Professor Discussion Board Forum
4. On-demand Blackboard videos on how to use Blackboard features, and Technical Requirements.
5. Feel free to respond to other students in the Ask the Professor forum if you know the answer.

Course Technology Use: Several Internet-related materials are required for access to and success in this course, including the following:

1. **A hard-wired, high-speed Internet connection**: Non-stable or slow Internet connections will not excuse failures

to complete any assignments or exams by dates due.
2. **A functioning gmu.edu e-mail account**: Personal e-mail accounts will not suffice for correspondence for this course, as you will only be contacted via their GMU-affiliated e-mail addresses.

3. **Downloading capability:** You must have regular access to a computer onto which they can download and use the Exam Guard browser for testing throughout the course. <insert additional information>
4. **Microsoft Office:** Word access: You must have regular access to a computer onto which they can create, save, and submit written assignments in (.doc) or (.docx) format.
5. **Blackboard familiarity:** This course is delivered and conducted entirely online via the GMU Blackboard. As registrants in this course, you can (a) access the Student Tutorial or (b) contact the Help Desk or (c) refer to the Tech Support tab in the upper- right-hand corner of the course site for more information. You can find the following on BB:
   a. **Course materials:** Various course materials (syllabus, reading materials, notes, guidelines/grading criteria for assignments, projects, and proposal) are/will be available from this site.
   b. **Online discussion:** Discussion of and reflection on course content, inside and outside of class.
   c. **Grades/Progress updates:** You may get an update of their current course grades periodically.

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, and notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. You 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.

Class Cancellation Policy: Please check blackboard and your email regularly. If class is canceled, I will notify you by email/blackboard and how we will make the time up.

GRADING SCALE

Breakdown: Assignments/Discussions (15%) + Chapter Quizzes (15%) + Exams (3 x 20%) + Presentation (10%) =

100% Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
D 60-69%
F 59% & below

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

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

1. **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. This includes: not cheating on exams or homework assignments (e.g., copying the work of others or using crib notes), not passing off someone else's ideas as your own (plagiarism), not engaging in dishonesty of any kind with regard to your class participation and

assignments.

a. **Honor Code:** George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information. You in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be reported according to GMU procedures. You must paraphrase any information from a source into your own words. Do not copy anything word for word, even if you are citing the source; direct quotes are not accepted for Critique and Redesign and Proposal projects in this class. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student's.

b. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. Unless otherwise stated in class, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the assignment, and, depending upon the severity of the violation, you may fail the class.

c. Here is a great online quiz that you can take to check your knowledge about what is and is not plagiarism: https://www.indiana.edu/~tedfrick/plagiarism

2. **Copyright Statement:** George Mason University holds the copyright on all materials prepared by me for this course (lecture slides/videos, assignment 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.
3. **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/

4. Students must follow the university policy for [Responsible Use of Computing](#)

5. **Enrollment:** Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu). After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

6. **Student services:** The University provides range of services to help you succeed academically and you should make use of these if you think they could benefit you. I also invite you to speak to me (the earlier the better).

7. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

8. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380. Web-site here.

9. If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Disabilities must be documented by the Disability Resources Center (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester.

10. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. University Writing Center: Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200. The writing center includes assistance for students for whom English is a second language.

11. **University Libraries:** University Libraries provides resources for distance students. (See http://library.gmu.edu/distance and http://infoguides.gmu.edu/distance_students

12. Diversity: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity

among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. George Mason University promotes a living and learning

environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected.

13. Notice of a 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 1412. 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 & Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu.

14. Religious Holidays: A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. See the Religious Holiday Calendar. Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.