Brain and Education  
PSY 581 Section 901  
Fall 2016  
3 credits  
Location: Cyberspace  
Office Hours: Online

Professor: Adriane Mayda, Ph.D.  
E-mail: adriane.mayda@unco.edu

Since this is a purely online class, the easiest way to contact me is via e-mail.

This course offers an overview of neuroscience research targeted at educators. Topics covered will include background on brain structure and function, neural communication and drug effects, attention, emotion, motivation, learning, language. Disorders commonly found in the classroom will be highlighted throughout.

Goals: By the end of the semester you should have some understanding of the basic structure and working of the brain for attention, emotion, motivation, learning and memory, and language. You should also understand the neural disorders that would be common in the classroom.

Objectives:

- To differentiate brain-based research on education from popular brain myths.
- To differentiate normal from abnormal brain development.
- To differentiate electrical from chemical communication in the brain.
- To apply knowledge about drug therapies to classroom disorders.
- To utilize various aspects of attention and emotion to improve student behavior and learning in the classroom.
- To apply the features of short and long term memory to improve learning.
- To apply metacognition and self-regulated learning to assist student learning.
- To be able to apply knowledge about the brain to disorders like ADHD and autism in a classroom setting.

Textbook: Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology (7th edition) by Kolb & Whishaw

Participation: I expect active participation from all students in the class. I expect students to have completed the appropriate chapter and article reading before you do the assignment and that you are prepared to give examples and discuss the topics on the discussion board. Your discussion board participation grade will be based on your own submissions and responses to others’ postings. To get the full 5 points you not only have to submit a response to the topic, but also respond to another student’s posting.
Assignments: I will post assignments and chapter readings on blackboard in the ASSIGNMENTS folder. These are to be submitted to me as a short 1 double-spaced page paper. Each assignment is due by 11:59 PM on the date indicated.

Discussion Board: The discussion board is found in the DISCUSSION BOARD link on Blackboard. Each chapter will also have a discussion board on which is will pose questions or present issues for discussion. Active participation is expected from all students on all discussion boards. Your discussion board posts should be more well developed than a simple "I agree" or "Good point," and the content should demonstrate a beginning understanding of the course material. Remember that your tone should be respectful and professional: a good general rule for life. The Discussion Board for a specific chapter will close at 11:59 PM on the date indicated.

Final Paper: Students will be asked to choose a topic from the reading or class discussion and find a current article or book that addresses applications to the classroom. A 5-10 page paper will be due on Dec 8. Details on the paper assignment are found in the ASSIGNMENTS portion of Blackboard.

Exams: Two exams will be in the form of short answer/essay questions covering the material from the two halves of the semester. Exam 1 will be due on Nov 18. Exam 2 will be due on Dec 10. Details on the Exams will be available one week prior to the due date in the ASSIGNMENTS portion of Blackboard.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services, voice/TTY (970) 351-2289, or fax (970) 351-4166, or visit www.unco.edu/dss as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Other Student Resources: Psychology Department, McKee 0014, 1-2957, Tutorial Assistance, Michener L-120, 1-1905, Counseling Center, Gordon Hall, 1-2496

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: The University of Northern Colorado’s Student Code of Conduct (http://www.unco.edu/dos/student_code_conduct/student_conduct.html) and Honor Code (http://www.unco.edu/dos/honor_code/index.html) strictly prohibit any form of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and knowingly or recklessly encouraging or making possible any act of plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication. Academic misconduct is an unacceptable activity in scholarship and is in conflict with academic and professional ethics and morals. All incidents of alleged plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will be investigated and violations of academic integrity will result in a consequence that may be as severe as an F in the class and a recommendation for expulsion. For more information on plagiarism and appropriate paraphrasing, please see: http://www.unco.edu/dos/honor_code/defining_plagiarism.html
**Grading**

<table>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignments (14 * 5)</td>
<td>70 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter discussions (14 * 5)</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Letter Grade Breakdowns**

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<tr>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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Articles (in order of assignment) can be found in the COURSE MATERIALS folders


