PSY380: Physiological Psychology
Section: 970
Class Location: ONLINE

Instructor: M. Todd Allen, Ph.D.
E-mail: michael.allen@unco.edu
Office Phone: 351-2532
Office: McKee Hall Room 16b
Office hours: MWF 10-11 AM and TUES 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

Prerequisites: PSY 120 (Intro Psych) and intro to BIO/ZOO or equivalent

Course Overview and Objectives: This class is intended to give you a broad introduction to physiological psychology, as well as survey neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, functional relationship between the nervous system and behavior.

We will be discussing the following topics: the structure and function of both individual neurons and the entire nervous system, basic neuroanatomy, psychopharmacology, and the neural substrates of psychological disorders. By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Name and discuss the function of specific structures in the central nervous system.
- Describe the events associated with the propagation of the action potential.
- Understand neurotransmission at the synapse and the multiple ways in which drugs can disrupt or enhance this communication.
- Discuss the neural pathologies responsible for psychological disorders.

Required Readings and Materials:

Exams and Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Number of points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter quizzes (10 points each)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion boards (5 points each)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Grade Assignment:** The combined total for all the above will be 420 points. Your final grade will be based on a straight percentage of points as follows:

**Letter Grade Breakdowns**

- **A** 90% and above
- **A-** 89-89.9%
- **B+** 86-88.9%
- **B** 80-85.9%
- **B-** 79-79.9%
- **C+** 76-78.9%
- **C** 70-75.9%
- **C-** 69-69.9%
- **D+** 66-68.9%
- **D** 60-65.9%
- **D-** 59-59.9%
- **F** less than 59%

**Makeup exams:** There will be no makeup exams except under extreme circumstances. Do not miss an exam without a valid excuse -- an un-excused missed exam counts as a zero. All make up exams must be completed within one week of the scheduled exam.

**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

**Accommodations Statement:** 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.

**Inclusivity Statement:** The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS) supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength. We expect that students, faculty, administrators and staff within CEBS will respect differences and demonstrate diligence in understanding how other peoples' perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews may be different from their own.
Instructions for Popular vs Scientific Article

You must get your topic approved by Oct. 16
You must get your articles approved by Oct. 30.
The paper is due on Nov 20.
The paper will be turned in via Blackboard.

1. Choose a topic from the list provided or come up with one of your own and get approved by the professor.

   Look for popular articles in the newspaper or on the web.

   Good sites to search are:
   SCIENCEdAILy.COM browse “mental health” or “mind and brain” or search the archives for the topics such as “___________ and the brain”.

   CNN.COM search for “this week in the medical journals”
   “___________ and the brain”

   On the UNC library website, search LexisNexis under the category medical news.

   You need to find a popular press article that includes either the researcher’s name or the name of the journal the scientific article is published in. Then search the UNC library database (medline or psychinfo or psych articles) to try to find the scientific article. If it is not available at UNC, it may be available on inter-library loan via webzap.

   Articles need to be recent (i.e., from the last 30 years or after 1984).

   Failure to have all the references (and primary articles) will result in an F on the paper and presentation.

2. Go to the library or on the library website and find one other primary articles (about a specific experiment) or one review article or book chapter and get it approved by the professor. Therefore you need at least 3 items in your reference list: a popular article, a primary article, and a third article or book chapter.

   For your paper:
   1. Introduce the topic.
      Talk about what we learned in class that relates to this topic use background info from your other article.
   2. Summarize the popular article.
      Talk about why this made the news.
   3. Summarize the actual scientific article.
      Background/Rationale
      Methods
      Results
      Conclusions
   4. Does the popular article make any errors or exaggerations about the scientific article?
   5. What do you think the future will hold about this topic?
   6. APA style reference page.

   The paper will be about 5 pages long (not counting a title page and reference page). You should not make direct quotations from your articles. Please paraphrase into your own words.

Possible Paper Topics
AIDS dementia
Addiction
Affective disorders (depression, bipolar disorder)
Aggression
Alcohol
Alien Abduction
Alzheimer's
Amnesia
Anorexia
Anxiety
Autism
Bulimia
Caffeine
Capsaicin
Chocolate
Cocaine
Consciousness
Dyslexia
Emotion
Facial Expressions
Gambling
Genetics of …..
Gender
Hallucinations
Homosexuality
Hormones
Huntington's disease
Immune system
Language
Learning
LSD
Maternal behavior
Movement
Multiple Sclerosis
Obesity
Obsessive-Compulsive disorder
Parkinson's disease
PCP
Pheromones
Prozac
Rabies
Ritalin
Schizophrenia
Seizures
Sexual disorders
Speech
Stress