

Psychobiology



Spring 2024 PSYC 2330 Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: CLAUDIA COCHRAN, M.A. **COURSE:** PSYC 4324 **SEMESTER:** SPRING 2024

ONLINE OFFICE HOURS: TUES AND THURS 10 – 11 AM **CRN:** 27816

OFFICE PHONE: (915) 831-2253 Leave a message **E-MAIL:** ccochran2@utep.edu

1. Course Description:

Hi Everyone! Welcome to our ONLINE Psychobiology Class!

The primary goal of this course is to gain a solid foundation of the organization and function of the nervous system. This course provides an introduction to biological psychology, which includes the scientific study of the structure and function of the nervous system, the development and evolution of neural and behavioral systems, and interactions among physiology, behavior, environment, and genetics. Students will learn about the biological basis of behavior, develop a foundation of what is currently known and understood about the biology of emotion, mental illness, sensation and perception, the impact of substance use on the brain, and several of the neuro-psychiatric disorders. In addition, students will acquire a basic understanding of neural structure and function, will be able to identify numerous neurotransmitters and their actions, and will gain knowledge of commonly misused drugs and their impact on the brain.

This class requires you to be an ACTIVE participant in your education!

Your interest, your dedication and your commitment should enhance your success in class.

2. Required Course Textbook:

Watson, Neil V. & Breedlove, S.M. (2021).

The Mind's Machine: Foundations of Brain and Behavior (4th ed.).

- Oxford Publishers. ISBN: **Print ISBN: 9781605359731, 1605359734**

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- **eText ISBN: 9780197542248, 0197542247**

3. GRADING (How will I be graded?):

Your Final Grade will be computed from TWO PARTS:

Part 1: EXAMS: 4 Unit Exam Grades (Drop Lowest)	60 POINTS of your grade
Part 2: COURSEWORK: Quizzes & Video Surveys & Project	40 POINTS of your grade
EXTRA Credit	Up to 5 POINTS Added to your grade

Final Letter Grade is based on this scale:

A = 90 - 100 Points B = 80 – 89 points C = 70 – 79 points D = 60 – 69 points F = 59 or less

4. COURSEWORK –

Quizzes, Video Surveys and Semester Project – 40 Max Possible Points

Your completion of the UNIT coursework is 40 % of your FINAL Course grade.

EACH UNIT has 1 Unit Quiz and 1 Video Survey AND 1 EXAM.

This is an ONLINE course and you need a reliable computer/tablet and reliable internet connection to complete your work. Smartphones are not recommended as many students report problems with course completion when relying solely on a smartphone.

Coursework POINT MENU (40 points MAX needed for the semester)

Each of these items counts towards the 40 MAXIMUM COURSEWORK POINTS

- **Unit Quiz:** up to 6 points each Unit Quiz
- **Unit Video Surveys:** Up to 4 points for each Video Survey, based on evidence of having watched the video. Video Surveys require that you watch the corresponding Review Video and then complete the survey with PLENTY of specific evidence of having watched the video/session
- **Semester Project:** up to 10 points Complete ONE of the OPTIONS for the Semester Project. See Semester Project section 13. Rubric will be provided for grading guidelines. This is optional based on your point selection.

**** Please NOTE that E-mailed coursework will NOT RECEIVE CREDIT as Blackboard e-mail is NOT linked to the gradebook. Submit all coursework through its submission tab.**

5. EXAMS (Up to 20 Points each) 60 Possible Points

Your exams are multiple-choice and true-false questions and are taken ONLINE through Blackboard EXAM tab.

- You will take FOUR exams during the semester, the LOWEST Grade is dropped.
- A missed exam will result in the grade of a "zero". **No makeup exams** are allowed.
- Generous exam windows are provided, so be sure NOT to miss those open dates.
- Exams are TIMED (90 minutes) and require that you study and prepare PRIOR to taking the exam. Running out of time is NO EXCUSE for a failed exam.
- Your LOWEST Exam score is DROPPED at the end of the semester, the other 3 are worth up to 20

6. Academic Dishonesty-

You must demonstrate ethical behavior in all of your work. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will not be tolerated. This includes copying answers from a peer, a source, or from the web, AI, ChatGPT, etc. Should you be suspected of such behavior, there are a variety of consequences depending on the severity of the behavior up to and including being dropped from the course, among the more serious consequences. The work you submit must be your OWN original work, please ensure that it is. For more information, please see the EPCC Student Code of Conduct.

7. Appropriate ONLINE and In-PERSON Conduct-

Mature, respectful, and responsible behavior is expected from all students at all times, whether in person or online. All students must use RESPECTFUL behaviors towards your peers and your professor. Disruptive or Disrespectful behavior towards the professor or other students will NOT be tolerated in person or online. If this behavior occurs, it may result in a variety of disciplinary actions: a warning from the professor and/or a zero in participation, a lowered course grade, or a referral to the psychology department chair for permanent removal from the class.

8. EXTRA Credit:Up to 5 POINTS added to Final Course Grade

Interested in getting a few extra points for your grade? Then sign up today to create a Chapter REVIEW game for your classmates. You can complete this activity alone or you can form a group (up to 4 members) and submit your EXTRA CREDIT Proposal that states:

- The CHAPTER that you have selected for your game
- A description of the type of electronic game you will create to help the class **review** the material. Formatting of this game must be fully accessible and not require any passwords, etc.
- If working in a group, provide your group member names.
- **EACH** member MUST create at least 15 challenging **Multiple Choice** questions about the chapter content.
- **REQUIRED:** Submit a draft, at least 2 weeks before the EXAM opens for that chapter and receive approval before sharing your game with the class.
- **REQUIRED:** Once approved, be sure to **SHARE your chapter game** with your peers so they can play your game as they prepare for their exams.
- Only **ONE** review activity is allowed per semester, per student.

9. Communication with Professor & Office hours-

Use the Blackboard MESSAGE tab (envelope icon in the right top corner) to communicate with me. You must log into our BLACKBOARD COURSE to use this tab and it is the ONLY official communication for the course. If you use any other format, such as gmail, outlook, icloud, etc, you will not get a response. Please use: ccochedran2@utep.edu ONLY if Blackboard is down. Message me through the BB MESSAGE tab and I will get back to you within 48 hours or sooner, unless it's on a weekend, then you must wait until Monday.

** Please note that sending coursework through MESSAGES is NOT valid because it is NOT linked to the gradebook. No grade will be received for e-mailed coursework. Please submit all quizzes/video surveys and semester projects through their respective SUBMIT tabs.

ONLINE OFFICE HOURS: Tues/Thurs 10 am – 11am and by appointment. During these hours, you can e-mail me and get a speedy response or request a BB Collaborate chat or phone consultation.

I am also available by appointment, should you need an alternate meeting time. Just reach out and we can identify a mutually convenient time, and set up a chat.



11. Course Withdrawal and 6 DROP RULE-

The LAST DAY you can withdraw from this course with a W is on **March 28, 2024**. Although it is not required, you should consult with me prior to processing a drop, just to verify your course standing. It is your responsibility to drop yourself from the class. I do not drop anyone for any reason.

Be sure to reach out early if you are considering dropping the course. If your grade is low, reaching out early may help you salvage the course. I am here to work with you when you make the effort to COMMUNICATE early. Don't wait until the week before final exams to ask about Extra Credit and salvaging the class. By then all extra credit opportunities will have already passed and it will be too late for you to take action to remediate your grade.

12. Semester Project- Up to 10 points of Final Grade (10%) OPTIONAL

You may complete ONE Semester project to gain 10 points added to your final grade. This can be used in place of the Extra Credit or to fill in missing Coursework points.

Choose ONE of the following to complete by stated timelines in the Course Calendar:

Option 1: My Ted Talk:

Choose any topic that is included in our book and/or has been discussed this semester. Conduct research on the topic using at least 5 peer-reviewed scholarly articles (recent, 2015 +). Create a video where you put on a Ted Talk discussing what you knew about the topic before the research and how the research helped shape your post-reading knowledge. Be sure to include pictures, citations, interesting findings and reveal your own concerns, questions, biases, etc. This option **MUST** be recorded with you as the speaker and use a digital platform such as Powerpoint, Prezi, Sway, Tik Tok, etc. Minimum 5 – 10 minutes long.

Option 2: Fact or Myth?

Find a YouTube video, or a Ted Talk or an Instructional Video online to **fact check**. You will need to identify at least 5 points from the video that you want to verify and then find scholarly peer-reviewed articles to verify each point. Was the speaker's position supported in the research or not? This project may be written as a report OR Recorded as a presentation. If submitting a written report, be sure to include an Introduction, Body, and Conclusion. Be sure to use visuals, charts, tables, clip art, etc. If presenting it through a visual platform, it can use Powerpoint, YouTube, TikTok, etc. and recorded. At least 5 Citations must be provided for either format and you must include the link to the video that you analyzed. Have fun!

Option 3: Mini-Lit Review:

Choose any topic that is included in our book and/or has been discussed throughout the semester. Find at least 5 peer-reviewed recent (2015 +) articles about this topic. Write a mini- literature review where you discuss the findings of the articles and synthesize the results. Write this up in a 5 – 7 page report using APA style. For those of you graduating soon, this will serve as excellent practice for Graduate School.

Grading Rubric will be provided for this project on Blackboard.

Spring 2024 15 Weeks Psycho-Biology Course Calendar C. Cochran

Unit	DATE	Readings	Topic	Assignments/Due Dates
Unit 1	Jan. 17 W	Syllabus	Course Orientation	Purchase book
	Jan. 19 F	1	Structure and Function	Begin Reading & Coursework
	Jan. 22 M	1	Structure & Function continued	Syllabus QUIZ DUE 1/23
	Jan. 24 W	1	Structure & Function continued	
	Jan. 26 F	2	Neurophysiology	Course Orientation SURVEY DUE 1/27
	Jan. 29 M	2	Neurophysiology continued	
	Jan. 31 W	3	Chemistry of Behavior	
	Feb. 2 F	3	Chemistry of Behavior continued	
			Watch Unit 1 REVIEW VIDEO	Unit 1 VIDEO SURVEY DUE 2/2
	Feb. 5 M	4	Development of the Brain	
	Feb. 7 W	4	Development of the brain	
	Feb. 9 F		Unit 1 Quiz Prep	Unit 1 Quiz Due 2/9
Feb. 10 – 12		Unit 1 EXAM ONLINE	EX 1: Don't miss it! 2/10 – 2/12 @ 11:58 pm	
Unit 2	Feb. 14 W	5	Sensory Motor system cont.	
	Feb. 16 F	5	Sensory Motor system cont.	
	Feb. 19 M	6	Hearing, Balance, Taste & Smell cont.	
	Feb. 21 W	6	Hearing, Balance, Taste & Smell cont.	
			Semester Project Proposal	Project Proposal DUE 2/21
			Submit your selected Project Option and A list of 3 possible topics for approval and feedback	
	Feb. 23 F	7	Vision: From Eye to Brain	
	Feb. 26 M	7	Vision: From Eye to Brain	
	Feb. 28 W	8	Hormones & Sex	
			Watch Unit 2 REVIEW VIDEO	Unit 2 VIDEO SURVEY DUE 2/28
	Mar. 1 F	8	Hormones & Sex	
	Mar. 4 M	8	Hormones & Sex	
	Mar. 6 W		Unit 2 Quiz Prep	Unit 2 Quiz DUE 3/6
	Mar. 7 - 9		Unit 2 EXAM ONLINE	EX 2: Don't Miss it! 3/7 – 3/9 @ 11:58 pm
	Mar. 11 – 15		** NO CLASSES—Spring Break Holiday**	
Unit 3	Mar. 18 M	9	Homeostasis	Begin Reading & Coursework
	Mar. 20 W	9	Homeostasis cont.	
	Mar. 22 F	9	Homeostasis cont.	
	Mar. 25 M	10	Biological Rhythms & Sleep	Semester Project DRAFT 1 DUE 3/25 Submit your first Draft of your semester project. Drafts will VARY based on selected Option
	Mar. 27 W	10	Biological Rhythms & sleep cont.	
	Mar. 28 R		** Last Day to withdraw from the course**	
	Mar. 29 F		** NO CLASSES—Institutional Holiday**	
	Apr. 1 M			
	Apr. 3 W	10	Biological Rhythms & sleep cont.	
	Apr. 5 F	11	Emotions, Aggression & Stress	
			Watch Unit 3 REVIEW VIDEO	
	Apr. 8 M	11	Emotions, Aggression & Stress cont.	Unit 3 VIDEO SURVEY DUE 4/8
	Apr. 10 W	12	Psychopathology	
	Apr. 12 F	12	Psychopathology cont.	
	Apr. 15 M	12	Psychopathology cont	
Apr. 17 W		Unit 3 Quiz Prep	Unit 3 Quiz DUE 4/17	
Apr. 18 - 20		Unit 3 EXAM ONLINE	EX 3: Don't Miss it! 4/18 – 4/20 @ 11:58 pm	

Spring 2024 15 Weeks Bio-Psych Course Calendar C. Cochran

Unit	DATE	Readings	Topic	Assignments/Due Dates
Unit 4				
	Apr. 22 M	13	Memory & Learning	Begin Reading & Coursework
	Apr. 24 W	13	Memory & Learning cont. Watch Unit 4 REVIEW VIDEO	Unit 4 VIDEO SURVEY DUE 4/24
	Apr. 26-F	14	Attention & Higher Cognition	
	Apr. 29-M	14	Attention & Higher Cognition cont.	
	May 1 W		Unit 4 Quiz PREP	Unit 4 Quiz DUE 5/1
	May 3 F		DEAD DAY	No work... Prep for your Finals
	May 5 - 7		Unit 4 EXAM ONLINE	EX 4: Don't Miss it! 5/5 – 5/7 @ 11:58 pm

**** Please note that assignments & surveys MUST be submitted through the SUBMIT tabs on BB. The opportunity to submit an assignment CLOSSES on the DUE DATE, so be sure to submit BEFORE the end of that day. Also, please note that exam windows VARY and are NOT ALWAYS on the same day/time of the week. *****

QUICK VIEW

Due Dates	Video Surveys DUE	Unit Quizzes	EXAM Window
Unit 1	2/2	2/9	2/10 – 2/12
Unit 2	2/28	3/6	3/7 – 3/9
Unit 3	4/8	4/17	4/18 -4/20
Unit 4	4/24	5/1	5/5 – 5/7

Working HARD as a college student:

What's the 3:1 RATIO??? The 3:1 Ratio means for EACH CREDIT Hour that you are taking, you must devote 3 HOURS of PREPARATION per week. This is a 3 CREDIT class, which means you will need at least **9 HOURS of preparation**, per week, to be successful. Use these hours for reading, completing discussions, video surveys, and chapter quizzes. Getting started on the right track is a great way to be successful in college. This ratio applies to all your classes, so plan accordingly.