

# Psychobiology

PSYC-4324 (26174) / Spring 2025

T/TR 4:30-5:50 pm (PSYC 308 / Quinn Hall 206)

**Instructor:** Sergio Iñiguez, Ph.D.  
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**Office Phone:** 915-747-5769  
**Office Hrs:** by appointment (via zoom).

**Text:** Physiology of Behavior (13<sup>th</sup> Ed) by Neil R. Carlson and Melissa A. Birkett. Publisher: Pearson.

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the study of brain and behavior. This course will introduce students to the ideas, methods, and principles of neuroscience and psychology. The beginning of the course focuses on the principles of neural function — emphasis is placed on how individual neurons receive and transmit information. This background in basic neuron function provides a framework on which we will build a deeper level of understanding of brain function on a more global scale. A broad survey of topics in the area of brain and behavior are covered; these topics include how the brain allows us to see, hear, and feel sensory events in our surroundings, how drugs influence brain activity and thus influence behavior, how the brain behaves during sleep and dreaming, how the brain allows us to perceive sensations (color/taste), and what goes wrong in the brain in psychological disorders, such as depression.

**Exams:** There will be **5 exams** throughout the course. The 5<sup>th</sup> test serves as the final exam; this exam is NOT a cumulative exam. There are **no makeup exams allowed** for any reason. Your final grade (200 points possible) will be determined by 4 exam scores. Which four exams, since there are five? The Final (Exam 5) and the 3-highest scores from the initial 4 exams (the lowest score of the initial 4 exams will be dropped, in other words, it will become a zero). I do this, because I understand that we all have emergencies (and I will not become the referee of what is an emergency in your personal life). Importantly, **the Final exam cannot be dropped**. In fact, if you miss the Final exam, one of the 4 scores used to calculate your final grade will be a zero, in addition to the zero you will get from the lowest grade of the initial 4 exams (no exceptions, so do not contact me asking to reschedule an exam). Each exam is worth **50 points** each (but keep in mind that your final grade is NOT the result of the total points accumulated from all 5 exams combined). **Exams will be available via blackboard during regular class time only** (on the scheduled date; again, do not ask me to reschedule an exam, because I will not). This means that the exams are available only during regular class time. Therefore, you will need a laptop/iPad to take the exam in the classroom. If you need a laptop/iPad, you can rent one at the library.

**Make-up exams** are not allowed and cannot be made up and will receive a score of 0. This is why you get to drop one!

**Extra Credit:** Up to 6 extra credit points (3% of the final grade) can be earned by participating in psychological research. This can be accomplished in two possible ways. **1)** Via the SONA Experiment Management System (<https://utep.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>). This system provides an easy method for you to sign up for extra credit research studies and track your progress throughout the semester (you must create an account). If you have difficulties, please contact the Department of Psychology Office (phone: 915-747-5551). **2)** Extra credit may also be earned by attending research-related talks provided by visiting psychology and/or neuroscience researchers to UTEP (I will make the announcement in class when available). Regardless of the method you choose to get extra credit, it will be DUE on or before the last day of regular class (not the date of the final).

**Blackboard Website:** The course syllabus, lecture notes, announcements, and grades will be posted on the course Blackboard website (<http://my.utep.edu>).

**Disabled Student Policies:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all qualified persons should have equal opportunity and access to education regardless of the presence of any disabling conditions (login page is at: <http://cassportal.utep.edu>). Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) office located at Union Building East Room 106 (**915-747-5148**). If you require special provisions, please notify me during the first week of classes with any supporting documentation. For more information contact [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their webpage at: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>

**Attendance** is expected and will help you earn a better grade in the class than you will earn if you fail to attend regularly. The concepts in the textbook can be very complex and your understanding of the material will be much better if you keep good attendance at the lectures. All exam questions will come directly from lecture and may not be answered only from reading the textbook. **Classes are in person only, including Exam days.**

**Classroom behavior** is expected to be appropriate for university learning. Disruptive talking in class is not allowed, as it disturbs those students around you as well as distracting the instructor from teaching. Please help to create a classroom atmosphere of **mutual respect** and commitment to learning.

**Plagiarism/Cheating.** Plagiarism and/or cheating on exams are violations of the Student Disciplinary code and will result in an "F" for the course. See UTEP's student affairs webpage for details:

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

**EXAM GRADING SCALE (by %)**

A	B	C	D	F
90-100	80-89	67-79	66-60	≤59

**COURSE GRADING SCALE: TOTAL POINTS**

A	B	C	D	F
4	160-179	134-159	133-120	≤119.9

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

WK	Day	DATE	TOPIC	READING	NOTES
1	T	01/21/25	Introduction of the course	N/A	
	TR	01/23/25	History of Neuroscience	Ch 1	
2	T	01/28/25	History of Neuroscience- cont	Ch 1	
	TR	01/30/25	History of Neuroscience- cont	Dr. Freeman/Lobotomy	
3	T	02/04/25	Ethics/Conduct of Research	Ch 1 / 5	<b>Census Day</b>
	TR	02/06/25	Animal Research	Ch 1 / 5	
4	T	02/11/25	<b>Exam 1</b>		
	TR	02/13/25	Cells of the Nervous System	Ch 2	
5	T	02/18/25	The Nervous System-Microanatomy	Ch 2	
	TR	02/20/25	Resting Membrane Potential	Ch 2	
6	T	02/25/25	Action Potential	Ch 2	
	TR	02/27/25	Synaptic Transmission	Ch 2	
7	T	03/04/25	<b>Exam 2</b>		
	TR	03/06/25	Macro-anatomy		NIH NMB study section
8	T	03/11/25	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
	TR	03/13/25	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
9	T	03/18/25	Anatomy	Ch 3	
	TR	03/20/25	Anatomy – cont.	Ch 4	pg 148-151
10	T	03/25/25	Pharmacology	Ch 4	
	TR	03/27/25	Pharmacology – cont.		
11	T	04/01/25	<b>Exam 3</b>		
	TR	04/03/25	The Medicated Child		<b>Drop/Withdrawal Deadline</b>
12	T	04/08/25	Vision	Ch 6	
	TR	04/10/25	Vision	Ch 6	
13	T	04/15/25	Audition	Ch 7	
	TR	04/17/25	Chemical Senses – <b>Calvo D</b>	Ch 7	
14	T	04/22/25	<b>Exam 4</b>		
	TR	04/24/25	Biological Rhythms	Ch 9	
15	T	04/29/25	Sleep	Ch 9	
	TR	05/01/25	Sleep – cont.	Ch 9	
16	T	05/06/25	Reproductive Behav – <b>Rodriguez M</b>	Ch 10	
	TR	05/08/25	Emotion – <b>Themann A</b>	Ch 11	Last Day of Regular Classes
17	T	05/13/25	<b>Exam 5 (FINAL) @ 4:00 pm</b>		
	TR	05/15/25	FINALS WEEK – No Class		

**NOTE:** This schedule is a general guideline. The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the class schedule during the semester. Any schedule changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.