

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
PSYC 2080*N1 Biological Psychology

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: NA

Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 12:00-1:15

Days: TTh

Room: LH174

Instructor's Name: Kim Talbott

Instructor's Contact Information: LH175 (office)

Office Phone: 307-268-3068

Email:
ktalbott@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: MW, 10:00-11:50; TTh, 11:00-11:50; and by appointment.

Course Description: This course is intended to introduce students to the biological bases of behavior, including ethology and comparative behavior, psychobiological development, physiological and sensory mechanisms of behavior, and evolution and behavioral genetics. In addition, students will gain a better understanding of basic structural and functional properties of the nervous system.

NOTE: The Casper College Addictionology / Psychology Programs have adopted the American Psychological Association [APA] Publication Manual as our official writing style for all written work in our courses.

Statement of Prerequisites: Students are required to have completed an introductory course in psychology (e.g. PSYC 1000) and an introductory course in biology (e.g. BIOL 1000).

Goal: The goals of this course are to provide students with an opportunity to acquire a greater depth of knowledge regarding the field of biological psychology and the research methods used, increased comprehension of biological processes and the role they play in influencing both normal and abnormal behavior, and knowledge of key biopsychological terms, concepts, and principles.

Outcomes: Through active participation in this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate effective written communication using appropriate psychological terminology.
2. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research.
3. Summarize real-life research results.

Course Objectives: Students will acquire knowledge of and think critically about the interaction between biological processes and behavior, use technology, summarize research, and effectively communicate information using appropriate terminology.

Methodology: Interactive lecture consisting of PowerPoint lecture slides, videos, and activities. Your feedback is valuable as the instructor uses course evaluations in determining course methodology.

Evaluation Criteria:

Exams (100 points each): There will be a total of four (4) exams based on textbook chapters, PowerPoint slides, and videos. *Only three of these four exams will count towards your final grade (the exam with the lowest score will be dropped).* Exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay-style questions. Since the lowest exam is dropped, no make-ups will be allowed for any exam.

Psychology Research Article Review Papers (50 points each): Students are required to review two (2) articles from peer reviewed journals focusing on empirical, qualitative, or quantitative research in biological psychology and turn in one-page summaries of these articles (see the example posted on Moodle). The articles need to have been published in the last five (5) years. These two article reviews are intended to follow the text's themes, can be based on any concept presented in the text, and should correspond to two of the four exam "units" (for instance, if you choose to do Article Review #1, your topic should relate to the material that was covered in chapter 4, 6, 9, or 10. See the course schedule for due dates). The research articles reviewed should be drawn from studies involving the biological aspect of the biopsychosocial models of behavior. A good source for these articles is the Casper College Goodstein Library electronic databases. (e.g., A&P database, PsycArticles). Please note *Psychology Today* is not a peer-reviewed journal. Because students can choose which two of the three research reviews they want to do, no late assignments will be accepted without documentation.

Review Exercises (10 points each): *A colorful introduction to the anatomy of the human brain* consists of 12 chapters and within each chapter are review exercises. Students will be awarded 10 points for completing the review exercise(s) in each of these chapters (for a total of 120 points). Students should complete the review exercises that end in .2 and .3 (e.g. 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3). Exercises should be submitted electronically through the Moodle dropbox. No late assignments will be accepted without documentation.

Extra Credit: You can earn 30 points (5.8% of the course grade) by participating in extra credit activities. The two ways to earn extra credit are through research participation during the term or completing three hours of service learning. More information about these opportunities will be provided in class. In order to earn extra credit all other graded assignments must be turned in. These points are truly extra credit and points earned cannot be used in lieu of a required assignment.

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Final Grade Grading Rubric

% Points	Points	Letter Grade
90-100	468 - 520	A
80-89	416 - 467	B
70-79	364 - 415	C
60-69	312 - 363	D
Below 60	<312	F

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:

Pinel, J. P. J. (2014). *Biopsychology*. (9th Ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Pinel, J. P. J., & Edwards, M. (2007). *A colorful introduction to the anatomy of the human brain: A brain and psychology coloring book*. (2nd Ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Class Policies:

1. You are responsible for all assigned readings.
2. You are responsible for turning in assignments on time. The course schedule includes the week that assignments are due. The specific due date will be announced in class and posted on Moodle the week before it is due. Late assignments are not accepted without documentation.
3. It is your responsibility to attend class regularly so that you are aware of any announcements that may be made. It is also your responsibility to let me know if you are having difficulty grasping any of the course material. I am here to help you succeed.
4. Withdrawing from class: Students may withdraw from this class up to November 12th, the official withdraw deadline date. Students who continue the class into finals week may not withdraw from the class. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw. The Instructor will not initiate withdrawals.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Course Schedule (tentative):

WEEK	WEEK OF:	TOPIC	READING & ASSIGNMENT
1	8/24	Syllabus & Introduction to biological psychology	Ch. 1
2	8/31	Evolution, genetics, and experience Research methods of biopsychology	Ch. 2 & 5
3	9/7	Anatomy of the nervous system (Monday is Labor Day)	Ch. 3 Review Exercises (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7) Exam 1 [1, 2, 3, & 5]
4	9/14	Neural conduction and synaptic transmission	Ch. 4
5	9/21	The visual system	Ch. 6
6	9/28	Development of the nervous system	Ch. 9
7	10/5	Brain damage and neuroplasticity	Ch. 10 Article Review #1 Review Exercises (Ch. 4, 8, 9) Exam 2 (4, 6, 9, 10)
8	10/12	Learning, memory, and amnesia (Midterm Week)	Ch. 11
9	10/19	Hunger, eating, and health (Fall Break falls on Monday & Tuesday)	Ch. 12
10	10/26	Hunger, eating, and health & Hormones and sex	Ch. 12 & Ch. 13
11	11/2	Hormones and sex	Ch. 13
12	11/9	Sleep, dreaming, and circadian rhythms	Ch. 14 Article Review #2 Review Exercises (Ch. 10, 11, 12) Exam 3 (11, 12, 13, 14)
13	11/16	Drug addiction and the brain's reward circuits	Ch. 15
14	11/23	Lateralization, language, and the split brain (Thanksgiving break starts on Wednesday)	Ch. 16
15	11/30	Biopsychology of emotion, stress, and health	Ch. 17
16	12/7	Biopsychology of psychiatric disorders	Ch. 18 Article Review #3
17	12/14	Final Exam Week	Exam 4 [15, 16, 17, 18]