San José State University
Biological Psychology
PSYC 30, SP2014

Instructor: Dorion Liston
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Office Hour: 5:00-6:00 PM Monday, or by appointment (DMH 230)
Class Days/Time: Monday 6:00-8:45
Classroom: DMH 356
Prerequisite: BIOL 021 or BIOL 065
Course website: http://sites.google.com/site/psyc30 (email for login)

SJSU Course Description
Biological approaches to understanding behavior: evolutionary, genetic, neural and hormonal influences on normal and abnormal behavior. Prerequisite: BIOL 021 or BIOL 065.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes
This course provides an introduction to biological psychology, in four sections: basic neuroanatomy, neurochemical systems, sensory and motor systems, and reward systems. The goal of this class is to introduce basic concepts and techniques in biological psychology, provide thorough coverage of some basic mechanisms and theory, and introduce some important history.

We will rely heavily on use of the course webpage; you will need regular access to a computer with an adequate word processor and the internet. The syllabus is posted and will be updated online, and many of the course resources will be material on the web, including the Brain Facts text.
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1 Name the 12 cranial nerves, and describe the signals that each nerve carries.

CLO2 Outline the chemical events that occur during an action potential.

CLO3 Describe the four neurotransmitter systems discussed in class, name agonists and antagonists for each.

CLO4 Describe the three neurohormonal systems discussed in class, give an overview of the function of each.

CLO5 Describe the anatomical pathways for the auditory and visual system. Explain the difference between sensory transduction and perceptual processing.

CLO6 Explain the negative feedback mechanisms in homeostasis, and how it operates in various types of behavior.

CLO 7 Describe the anatomy and hormonal processes involved in autonomic processes.

SJSU complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment as soon as possible (or visit during office hours). Presidential directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the DRC (exams@drc.sjsu.edu). The last day to drop courses is Feb. 4th and additional seats will be assessed on Feb. 10th; the deadline to add courses is Feb 11th.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>BW 2013</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
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<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
<td>introduction, overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
<td>anatomy and neuronal structure</td>
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<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
<td>synapses and action potentials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>neurotransmitters</td>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
<td>neurohormones</td>
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<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>sensory systems: auditory, vestibular, etc.</td>
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<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>sensory systems: vision</td>
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<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Chapter 13, 14 Circadian cycles</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Chapter 13, 14</td>
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<td>Apr 14</td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
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<td>Apr 28</td>
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<td>Conditioning</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
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Assignments and Grading Policy
Midterm exams will hold equal weight and the final will not be cumulative; it will cover material from the last unit. Course grades will be determined according to the following grading scheme:

- Midterm exams: 4 x 20%
- Course project: 20%

Classroom Protocol
Class attendance is essential as lectures will cover material from the course text as well as outside sources. Cell phone use (e.g., texting) will warrant removal from class. Use of a laptop or tablet is acceptable for course-related work (e.g., note-taking, lecture slides, etc.).

University Policies

Academic integrity
Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.
Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit the LARC website for more information at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/