PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSB 3002, Section 3555
Spring 2018

T Period 4 in LIT 109
R Periods 4-5 in NRN 137

Instructor: Melissa Cervantez
E-mail: mcervantez@ufl.edu
Office: Psychology Building 311F
Hours: Tuesday period 5 and by appointment
TA: Kathleen Segovia
TA E-mail: kathleensegovia@ufl.edu

About the course:

- This course is an introduction to the concepts, methods and data of behavioral neuroscience. Physiological psychology is concerned with biological factors, and their interactions, that produce and modify behavior. These factors include physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry and anatomy, at levels of analysis ranging from individual molecules to the whole organism. Familiarity with fundamental concepts of chemistry, physics, biology and physiology are assumed. Topics will include the structure and functions of the nervous system, including the function of individual nerve cells, communication between cells, and the organization of the nervous system into sensory, motor, and emotional systems. As we proceed through the semester, this material will be related to clinical disorders.

- Although this survey course will not make you an expert, it will give you a basic understanding of the ways in which internal events relate to behavior. Material presented in the lectures will largely be the same as that presented in the book, with a few exceptions.

- If you have taken the core biology sequence or its equivalent, you may wish to consider taking Behavioral Neuroscience, which will focus on the same topics but with greater emphasis on fundamental biological principles (unable to get credit for both courses).

Expectations:

- I will be available outside of class and my willingness to help you is directly related to the strength of your effort.

- Every effort will be made to ensure that the tests are fair.

- Expect a large volume of complex material to learn. You must keep up, or you will be in trouble.
Attendance:
- Attendance will not be taken, however it is strongly recommended in order to succeed in this course.
- You are responsible for obtaining notes from missed classes from a classmate not me.
- Please do not use cell phones or disrupt other students during class, you may be asked to leave.

Questions/E-mail policy:
- Please ask questions during class if you do not understand the material.
- Questions unrelated to the course material and considered off topic will be answered after class or during office hours.
- Do not e-mail about questions that require more than a paragraph of typing (come to office hours, catch me after class), any information that can be found on the syllabus or canvas, or about changing your grade (especially at the end of the semester).

Exam Policies:
- If you arrive late on an exam day, you may NOT take the exam if any students have left the room.
- All electronic devices must be turned OFF during exams. Cells phones, apple watches, and hats must be off and put away.
- If you miss an exam, the cumulative final will serve as your make-up exam. There will be no makeup exams.
- I will gladly correct any errors in grading I may make; I will NOT argue interpretations of questions or other matters of judgment.

Academic Dishonesty:
- Guidelines for this course will follow the University of Florida Student Honor Code.
- DO NOT CHEAT - WE WILL CATCH YOU. Anyone caught cheating on an exam will fail the class, period.

Additional Support for Students with Disabilities:
- Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
Course Topics (tentative):  
- Introduction and history of biopsychology  
- Structure and function of cells in the nervous system  
- Anatomy of the nervous system  
- Sensory systems: Visual, Auditory, Somatosensory, and Chemical  
- Psychopharmacology  
- Drug abuse  
- Neuroendocrinology and Sexuality  
- Biological rhythms and sleep  
- Learning and Memory  
- Emotions  
- Motor systems

Holidays/No class:  
- Spring break: March 6th and March 8th  
- Reading day: April 26th

Exam Dates:  
- FIRST EXAM: Tuesday, January 30th  
- SECOND EXAM: Tuesday, February 20th  
- THIRD EXAM: Tuesday, March 27th  
- FOURTH EXAM: Tuesday, April 24th  
- FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 3rd from 10:40-11:30 in NRN 137

Grading:  
- There will be 4 exams and 1 cumulative final. The 4 highest grades from those 5 exams will each be worth 25% of your final grade. The lowest score is dropped and if you are satisfied with your grade after the 4 exams, you can choose not to take the final. Makeup exams will not be given as the lowest exam score is dropped.

Final Grade Calculation:  
Highest exam score (25% final grade): __________  
2nd highest exam score (25% final grade): __________  
3rd highest exam score (25% final grade): __________  
4th highest exam score (25% final grade): __________  
5th highest exam score (dropped)

Grading Scale:  
A  93-100  
A-  90-92  
B+  87-89  
B  83-86  
B-  80-82  
C+  77-79  
C  73-76  
C-  70-72  
D+  67-69  
D  63-66  
D-  60-62  
F  <60