**PSYC 372-B01 Summer 2017  
6/5-7/28**

**Instructor**: Rochelle Sceats-Basil                                                        
**Email**: [rsceats@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:rsceats@masonlive.gmu.edu)  
**Class time**: Online                                                        
**Office Location**: DKH 1014D     
**Class location:** Online                                      
**Office Hours**: Monday 12-1pm or by appointment

**Course Objectives and Description**

 Physiological psychology (also known as biopsychology or behavioral neuroscience) is a specific field of psychology that covers the interesting yet complex interaction between the brain and behavior. Research in physiological psychology attempts to explain why certain behaviors occur. To begin understanding the vastness that is physiological psychology, the student will be required to possess a basic knowledge of biology and chemistry; in addition, the student should possess the desire to analyze behavior based on anatomy, physiology, and body chemistry.

 This course is meant to serve as an introduction to the field of physiological psychology by covering basic neuroanatomy, the building blocks (e.g. neurons and synapses), and basic functioning of the nervous system. We will also be looking at other interesting topics such as sensory systems, motor systems, learning & memory, sleep, brain plasticity, emotions, cognitive functions, and disorders such as depression and schizophrenia.

 This course will emphasize how both normal and abnormal behaviors are influenced by and are related to basic anatomy and functioning of the nervous system. By the end of the course, you will have an understanding of the relationship between brain and behavior, and you might find yourself wanting to advance towards more in-depth topics in biological psychology and behavioral neuroscience.

**Required Text:**

Kalat, J.W. (2011). *Biological Psychology,*12th Edition. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning. Wadsworth Publishers ISBN-13: 9781305105409 + MindTap Software (you buy this as a bundle, I recommend the loose leaf version of the book, it’s **much** cheaper)

**Course objectives:**

* Establish basic knowledge of the nervous system
* Describe the development of the nervous system and understand neuronal plasticity
* Recognize the biological mechanisms of normal and abnormal behaviors
* Interpret and evaluate the brain-behavior relationship focusing on specific topics

**How will you be assessed?**

1. Exams:Three exams will contribute towards your final grade. These will be 3 non-cumulative exams that will cover material since the previous tested exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer questions based on the assigned reading and lecture material (PowerPoints, handouts, etc.). Exams are **not** open book/note and will be timed. Each student will be videotaped during exams using the Respondus LockDown Browser Monitor; thus, a webcam is required for exams.
2. Discussion Board Posts  
   Throughout the semester there will be 4 prompts for a discussion board post. For full credit you will be required to respond to the prompt as well as reply to **two** of your classmates posts. You could ask them a question, add more to their answer or
3. Mind tap Quizzes  
   For each chapter that we cover you will need to complete a pre and post test using the MindTap software that is synced with BlackBoard and your textbook. Due dates for these are posted below. The pre-tests are graded on completion only, but the end of chapter quizzes are graded on your score. You will only be able to take the post test once.

***Extra Credit***

I do not entertain requests for extra credit opportunities in this class. Extra credit is extra work, and students who are having difficulty completing the required coursework seldom have the time to complete additional assignments.

**Other important matters:**

You are responsible for any/all announcements and syllabus modifications made in class.

*Assignment Makeup Policy:*

Assignment dates are listed, well in advance so there is no reason for assignments to be turned in late. You will have a grade deduction of 20% per day, until received. Of course, if you have a legitimate reason (documented emergency), then we can sort an alternative date.

*Exam Makeup Policy:*

There are no exam makeups. You must obtain permission if an exam is to be postponed or missed (only valid reasons will be accepted. For example, if you wake up late, please don’t bother asking for a makeup).

Final exams cannot be made up due to the strict finals schedule set by the University. However, if for some reason you have more than 2 finals on the same day or you know well in advance you will not be present on the final exam day, please let me know as soon as possible and I will schedule a time for you to take the final.

*Honor Code:*

The GMU honor code will be strictly enforced. Cheating and/or Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated under any circumstances. If you are caught cheating on an exam or quiz, you will be reported to the University Honor Board. Information that must be used from an outside source must be cited in correct APA format. I reserve the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

Additionally, the use of cell phones or other communication devices during quizzes or exams is not allowed. If you are seen with one out during any of these times your test will be taken and you will receive a zero.

**PLEASE DON’T CHEAT**

*Official Communications via GMU E-Mail:*

Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, and notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

*Technology Statement:*

Required knowledge of technology for this course includes ability to retrieve handouts sent via email to your GMU address or posted on Blackboard ([mymason.gmu.edu](http://mymason.gmu.edu/)). Occasionally I may use computer programs or the Internet in class to present demonstrations of relevant material. You may also wish to use websites provided by me to study for the quizzes and exams. I will post relevant information and documents via the latest version of Microsoft Office, so make sure to have the latest version of office or download the converter in order to read all important documents.

**Specific requirements for this course:**

**Hardware:**

* A Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and to a fast, reliable broadband Internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL).
* Recommended computer monitor and laptop screen size of 13 inches or larger, for optimum visibility of course material.
* Computer speakers or headphones to listen to recorded content.
* A headset microphone for live audio sessions using course tools like Blackboard Collaborate.
* A webcam (built in to your computer or a portable one that can be externally mounted) for taking exams using Respondus Monitor.
* Enough space on your computer to 1) install the required and recommended software and 2) save your course assignments.

**Software:**

* Web browser (See [Blackboard Support](http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/Students/) for supported web browsers)
* Blackboard Courses (Log into [http://mymason.gmu.edu](https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/), select the Courses Tab)
* Blackboard Collaborate (select from the course menu).
* Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download](http://get.adobe.com/reader/))
* Flash Player ([free download](http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/))
* Microsoft Office ([purchase](http://compstore.gmu.edu/products/microsoft/))
* Respondus LockDown Browser (download from the myMason home page or with this [link](http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=133435885))
* For hardware and software purchases, visit [Patriot Computers](http://compstore.gmu.edu/).

*Students with Disabilities:*  
  
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at [703-993-2474](tel:(703)%20993-2474).  All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office

*Add/Drop Deadlines:*  
The last day to add a class is **6/5**. The last days to drop a class are: **6/12**(no penalty),**7/11**(50% tuition penalty).

*Grade Breakdown:*

Exams (3) 60% (600 points, 200pts each exam)

Discussion Board Posts (4) 10% (100 points, 25pts per post)

Mind Tap Quizzes, 20%, 200 points   
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Total: 100% or 1,000 points

**Final Grades**

A+ (98%+) A (94-97%) A- (90-93%) B+ (88-89%) B (84-87%) B- (80-83%) C+ (78-79%) C (74-77%) C- (70-73%) D (60-69%) F (0-59%)

 PSYC 372 is a required course for psychology majors and a grade of C- or better is required for graduation. If you have concerns about your grade during the semester, please contact me. Do not wait until the last few weeks of class to discuss a potential issue with your grade!

*Grade Appeals:*

The time to challenge the merit of an individual assignment is during the semester and within one week after the assignment evaluation is returned.  Once the semester has ended and your final semester grade is posted, it is not appropriate to then challenge the merit of individual assignment grades earned during the semester.  Students often are not aware of what conditions qualify for a grade change after the completion of a semester.  The appeal request must fit into one or more of the following categories:

**1.** A change from a temporary to a final grade either before or after a University deadline (such as an “Incomplete” to an “A”  
**2.** A computational or technical error (such as an issue with an auto calculation)  
**3.** A recording error (such as a professor recording an “18” instead of an “81”).

If you believe there is an error in your final semester grade, you should first approach me with clear and concrete justification and evidence to support your appeal in the category or categories above.  Once the semester has ended, I will not hear appeals regarding the merit of individual assignment grades earned during the semester, as those should be resolved with the instructor during the semester.

***Tentative* Schedule:**

***NOTE:***You are responsible for knowing about all announcements and any syllabus modifications made via Blackboard and/or email.

**Week 1: June 5-11**

* Course Orientation and MindTap Introduction
* Nerve Cells And Nerve Impulses (Chap 1)
* Discussion Post 1 Due, 11th at 11:59pm

**Week 2: June 12-18**

* Synapses (Chap 2)
* Anatomy and Research Methods (Chap 3)

**Week 3: June 19-25**

* Genetics and Evolution (Chap 4)
* Discussion Post 2 Due, 25th at 11:59pm

·         ***Exam 1 covering Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 available June 23-25; deadline 11:59 pm June 25***

**Week 4: June 26-July 2**

* Vision (Chap 5)
* Movement (Chap 7)

**Week 5: July 3-9**

* Wakefulness and Sleep (Chap 8)
* Internal Regulation (Chap 9)
* Discussion Post 3 Due, 3rd at 11:59pm

**Week 6: July 10-16**

* Emotional Behaviors (Chap 11)

***Exam 2 covering Chapters 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11 available July 14-16; deadline 11:59 pm July 16***

**Week 7: July 17-23**

* Learning and Memory (Chap 12)
* Cognitive Functions (Chap 13)

**Week 8: July 24-29 (\*\*Note the Saturday end date\*\*)**

* Psychological Disorders (Chap 14)
* Discussion Post 4 Due Sat at 8pm

***Exam 3*** ***covering chapters 12, 13, and 14 available July 27-29; deadline 8 pm July 29***