

PSYCHOLOGY 360: BIOPSYCHOLOGY

2011-2012

WHO, WHEN, WHERE

Instructor: Steven Barnes
Room 2029, Kenny Psychology
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:15 – 12:15, and by appointment.

TA: Jay Hosking
Room 3510, Kenny Psychology
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Office Hours: By appointment.

Schedule: TTh, 9:30 – 10:45
Buchanan A203 (Term 1)
Buchanan A102 (Term 2)

Website: <http://psyc.metaplasticity.com/>
Double click the 'Psyc 360' icon. This course website has the following: Lecture schedule with associated slides, grades, course syllabus, and a collection of links related to the course. Please check for updated information about required readings, changes in the course schedule, etc.

Notes: (1) Office hours might change through the term. Please check the course website for updated office hours; (2) Emails will be answered on weekdays during normal working hours. Please limit emailed questions to ones that can be answered briefly. For more complex questions, please come to my office hour or contact one of us to schedule an appointment to meet with you.

ABOUT PSYC 360

Psychology 360 is a comprehensive course that examines many of the larger topic areas in the field of Biopsychology (aka Behavioural Neuroscience). This course places equal emphasis on (1) attaining the essential background knowledge necessary to effectively navigate and interpret the biopsychological literature, and on (2) developing critical and creative thinking skills. Psyc 360 is not just academic: much of the content is relevant to your every day life.

PREREQUISITES

The prerequisite for this course is Psychology 260. Permission is routinely given to senior Life Science majors (e.g., Physiology, Pharmacology, Biology majors) or senior Cognitive Science majors to take this course without the 260 prerequisite. Others without the 260 prerequisite must drop the course unless I have given them special permission.

EVALUATION

1. Exams:

There will be four examinations: two midterm examinations, a December Examination, and a Final Examination. The December and Final Exam will be written during the exam periods designated by the Registrar's Office. You must be available to write your exams at any time during the prescribed examination periods. The midterm examinations will be written during the regular class time--they might also include a take-home essay component.

(1) Fall Midterm (16%)	13 Oct
(2) December Exam (22%)	Dec Exam Period (6-20 Dec)
(3) Winter Midterm (22%)	9 Feb
(4) Final Exam (40%) (<i>non-comprehensive portion: 22%; comprehensive portion: 18%</i>)	Apr Exam Period (11-25 Apr)

You only have to write one of either the December exam or Winter Midterm exam. However, you will do a project in place of the exam you choose to miss (see *Project*, below); you must write the Fall Midterm and Final exam.

Notes on the Examinations.

The exams are not cumulative.

All examinations will be composed of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and essay questions. As the course progresses, there will be more emphasis and weight placed on the essay questions. The essay questions will also become more open-ended. You will always be instructed to use headings in your essay answers: This helps you organize your thoughts, and it helps the marker.

Note that the instruction on all multiple-choice questions will be to "*select the single best response.*"

If you encounter what you believe is a faulty question on an exam, answer it to the best of your ability under the circumstances, and write a brief explanation of what you think is the problem on the front of your exam. Occasionally, bonus marks are awarded to those who spot subtle ambiguities or errors.

There will be topics covered in class that are not in the text and topics in the text that are not covered in class. You will be responsible for both in the examinations. That is, all readings and all lecture material will be tested.

Once exams have been marked, the unofficial results will be posted on the course website with student numbers but no names. Please be sure to check your grade. You will receive an email notification when grades are posted (please ensure the University has your correct email address).

You are strongly encouraged to review your examination results with your teaching assistant, Jay. Requests for the adjustment of a grade on a particular exam must be made within 4 weeks of the posting of the grades for that exam. Most requests for adjustment of grades can be settled directly with Jay. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved in this fashion, I will render a binding decision after reading the examination and talking to both parties.

The final examination will be composed of two parts: The first part, the non-comprehensive portion, will deal with material covered since the winter midterm; the second part, the comprehensive portion, will deal with material covered throughout the course. The comprehensive portion of your final exam will include several short answer questions and one general essay question.

2. Project:

In place of writing one of either the December exam or the Winter Midterm (you must write the Fall Midterm and the Final exam), you will do a project on a topic of your choosing that is related to the material covered on the exam you have chosen not to write.

There are three purposes to this project:

- (1) To offer you the chance to explore a topic of your choice in greater depth than the lecture and text can offer.
- (2) To assess your ability to think both critically and creatively.
- (3) To offer you greater flexibility in planning your studying time.

The standard format for this project is a review paper (described in more detail below). However, if you attain a 75% or higher on at least one of your prior exams, you will be permitted (and encouraged) to pursue other project formats. In previous years, students have done short videos, paintings, computer models, musical compositions, dance sequences, and stop-motion animations. A group project might also be possible under certain circumstances (please speak to me if you are interested in this option).

If you choose any format other than the review paper described below, you will need to clear your project topic and format with me. This can be done in person or via email not less than 21 days prior to the project due date (see below). In most cases, I will provide you with a custom grading scheme to suit your specific project.

Your project should be one that is done for this course exclusively; handing in work that was done for another course (past or present) is not acceptable. If you are ever unsure of whether the topic or format of your project is acceptable, please ask me.

Project Due Date. You must hand your project in no later than 14 calendar days after the date of the exam that your project replaces; 10% will be subtracted from your grade for each 24-hour period of lateness.

Review Paper Option. If you choose to write a review paper as your project (in American Psychological Association (APA) style; for examples of APA-style review articles, see the APA journals *Psychological Bulletin* and *Psychological Review*) you are encouraged, but not obligated, to contact me to check that the topic of your paper is suitable before you start writing. Your paper must build on one or more of the topics that would have been on the exam you have elected not to write; it should not overlap substantially with the material in the text. The audience for your paper is someone who has already taken this course. Grading criteria for the review paper option will be made available on the course website.

You are expected to read a minimum of 10 peer-reviewed journal articles as part of your research, and your paper should not be less than 2500 words in length (excluding the title page, abstract, and references). When your chosen topic is one that is the subject of ongoing research, you are expected to use sources that are as up to date as possible. You should hand in both a paper copy and an electronic copy (.doc or .pdf) to the instructor. Regardless of when the electronic copy arrives, the time that the paper copy is received shall be taken as the official hand-in time.

COURSE TEXT

Required: Pinel, J.P.J. (2010). *Biopsychology, 8th Edition*. Allyn & Bacon. ISBN-13: 978-0205832569

From time to time, this text may be supplemented by other readings or videos to facilitate your understanding of the course materials. Please attend class and check the course website to obtain more information about these readings and videos.

Optional: Any additional learning aids associated with the textbook (e.g., Study Guide, "My Psych Kit" website access, CD) are optional. Although they might be useful for enhancing your understanding and retention of the materials, you will never be examined on any materials in these optional reading materials.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

The course topics will be covered according to the following schedule (chapter numbers in parentheses refer to assigned readings from the Pinel text):

TERM 1

Sept 8	Course Overview
Sept 13, 15	Introduction to Biopsychology (Ch. 1)
Sept 20, 22	Evolution, Genetics, and Experience (Ch. 2)
Sept 27, 29	Anatomy of the Nervous System (Ch. 3)
Oct 4, 6	Neural Conduction and Synaptic Transmission (Ch. 4)
Oct 11	Review Session for Fall Midterm Exam
Oct 13	Fall Midterm (<i>Makeup on Oct 25 @ 12:30</i>)
Oct 18, 20	Research Methods of Biopsychology (Ch. 5)
Oct 25 - Nov 3	The Visual System (Ch. 6)
Nov 8, 10	Perception, Conscious Awareness, and Attention (Ch. 7)
Nov 15, 17	The Sensorimotor System (Ch. 8)
Nov 22-29	Development of the Nervous System (Ch. 9)
Dec 1	Review Session for December Exam
Exam Period (Dec 6-20)	December Exam (<i>Makeup on Jan 10 @ 12:30</i>)

TERM 2

Jan 5 - 12	Brain Damage and Neuroplasticity (Ch. 10)
Jan 17, 19	Learning, Memory, and Amnesia (Ch. 11)
Jan 24, 26	Hunger, Eating, and Health (Ch. 12)
Jan 31, Feb 2	Hormones and Sex (Ch. 13)
Feb 7, 9	Sleep, Dreaming, and Circadian Rhythms (Ch. 14)
Feb 14	Review Session for Winter Midterm Exam
Feb 16	Winter Midterm Exam (<i>Makeup on Mar 6 @ 12:30</i>)
<i>Feb 20 - 24</i>	<i>Midterm Break.</i>
Feb 28 - Mar 6	Drug Addiction and the Brain's Reward Systems (Ch. 15)

Mar 8, 13	Lateralization, Language, and the Split-Brain (Ch. 16)
Mar 15, 20	Biopsychology of Stress and Illness (Ch. 17)
Mar 22 - Apr 3	Biopsychology of Psychiatric Disorders (Ch. 18)
Apr 5	Review Session for Final Exam
Exam Period (Apr 11 -25)	Final Exam

WITHDRAWAL DATES

If you wish to withdraw from this course without any record of the course on your transcript, you must do so on or before **23 Sept.** If you wish to withdraw with a "W" on your transcript, you must do so before **25 Nov.**

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

Grading. Your mark for each exam will be posted on the course web site (under the "Grades" menu item) with your student number, but not your name. You have the right to request that your grade not be posted; please send an email to the instructor to make such a request. If you wish to inspect your exam, you may do so by meeting with Jay, your teaching assistant.

The Department of Psychology has adopted the following target grade distributions in 300- and 400- level courses. The Department reserves the right to adjust final grades in this course if the distribution deviates substantially from the target. Psychology 360 is regarded as a strong class.

Class Performance	Mean	SD	%A	%(A+B)	%Fail
Strong class	70	13	22	56	6
Average class	68	13	18	50	8
Weak class	66	13	14	44	11

Attendance. In this course, material that is taught in class may be different from or supplement the text material. It is, therefore, essential that you attend classes and it is a good idea to read ahead in the text. If, however, you do have to miss a class you are responsible for getting class notes from another student. If you miss any of the first three exams due to illness, you must contact the instructor right away about the possibility of writing a makeup. Makeup exams will be administered on the dates indicated in the above schedule. If the final exam is missed, you must apply through the Registrars office to write a make-up exam--they will likely require medical documentation. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for details of 'academic concession.'

During your time in this course, if you encounter medical, emotional, or other personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, please notify me, as well as your Faculty Academic Advising Office. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for a discussion of academic concession.

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the *Access & Diversity* office. The University also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance or scheduled tests or exams. Please let the instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Other absences for varsity athletics, family obligations or similar commitments are not part of University policy and students should not assume they will be accommodated. Please discuss this with the instructor before the withdrawal dates—see above.

Credit/D/Fail Grading. This course is eligible for credit/D/fail grading. The last day to change between Credit/D/Fail and percentage grading is **23 Sept.**

POINTS TO REMEMBER

There are 13 weeks (25-26 classes) per term and 9 chapters will be covered each term. This means that there will be 2-3 lectures per chapter. Plan your reading and studying accordingly.

Productive classroom discussion and debate are encouraged.

Lectures will not focus on the presentation of facts; this is the function of your text. Lectures will typically focus on particularly important and/or interesting ideas. You are responsible for all text material and all lecture material.

Although slides from the lectures will be placed on the course website, each of those sets of slides does not necessarily constitute an entire lecture. Take home message: If you miss a lecture, don't expect to find all of what you missed in the slides.

Lecture slides will usually be posted on the course website the night before each lecture. This is done as a courtesy. However, please be aware that there might be substantive changes to the slides by the time they are used in the lecture the next day. Final versions of lecture slides will be posted by the Friday following a lecture.

This course evolves. As you proceed through it, you will find more and more emphasis on interpretation, critical evaluation, discussion, and personal implication--as opposed to memorization. Consequently, study strategies that work well for you early in the course may not be as effective later on.

The first quarter of the course reviews and extends material that most of you have encountered in Psychology 260. For this reason, we will move very quickly through this material. Note, however, that the standards in 360 are higher than those in 260. Many former 260 students needlessly do poorly on the first examination because they do not appreciate this point.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*—a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in *TurnItIn's* own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to the student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).

Last Modified: September 5, 2011.