

Syllabus
Physiological Psychology
PSYC 411/511 - Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. XT Wang

Time: 10:00 –10:50 am MWF

Phone: 677-5183

Course webpage: <http://www.usd.edu/~xtwang/physiopsychology>

Place: Slagle 309

Office Hours: MWF 1:00 -2:00 p.m. at USD 311

E-mail: xtwang@usd.edu

This course focuses on the physiological and biochemical mechanisms of human behavior. The course also outlines different theoretical and empirical approaches to understanding the brain-mind relations, and will involve overhead/video presentations in the lectures, in-class discussions, group activities, and learning of neural structures with computer animation and brain models.

Textbook:

James Kalat (2009). Biological Psychology (10th Ed.). Thomson-Wadsworth

Visit www.thomsonedu.com/psychology/kalat for flashcards, glossary, and online quizzes

Course Topics, Relevant Chapters and Tentative Exam Dates:

1) Global Issues in Physiological Psychology

2) Nerve Cells, Synapses, and Nerve Impulses

3) Neuronal Conduction and Neuronal Transmitters

Relevant Chapters: 1, 2, and 3

First Exam: Wednesday, February 11

4) Anatomy of the Nervous System

5) Cortical Functions of the Brain

6) Cognitive Neuroscience*

Relevant Chapters: 4, and 5

Second Exam: Friday, March 6

7) Brain Lateralization and Language

8) Methods of Investigation*

9) Sensation and Perception

Relevant Chapters: 14, 6, and 7

Third Exam: Monday, April 6

10) Wakefulness, Sleep and Dreams

10) Hormones and Reproductive Behavior

11) Emotional Behavior

Relevant Chapters: 9, 11, and 12

Fourth Exam: Tuesday, May 5 (5:30-6:30 pm)

*: Not in a particular chapter of the text.

The first three exams will be given during the regular class time while the final exam is booked for a different time according to the USD finals schedule.

The above schedule is subject to minor changes.

Written Assignment and Presentation

You can select any topic from the textbook and search for more relevant information and research articles on the topic via internet and library database.

Your written assignment should include a brief literature review of the selected topic, beyond the coverage of the textbook.

Your written review should use a MS Word format with a 12 point-font and double space. The review should include a title page, a 6 to 7-page long text, and a reference list.

Submit your paper as an email attachment (MS Word file) to Hanako.Shishido@usd.edu by **Wednesday, March 18**. Late submission will result in point reduction. No points will be given after March 31.

The name of your attachment file should begin with your last name and followed by your first name and "411" (e.g., **SmithJoe411**).

After electronic submission, you should keep a hard copy of the paper with you in class and be prepared to give a 5-minute oral presentation in a future time.

Class Requirements and Testing/Grading Procedure:

A. Attendance at all class sections is required. Materials covered in exams will be taken from the lectures, text, and class discussions/activities. Some material on exams is not in the textbook. Students are responsible for class discussion/activities even if they are not in attendance.

B. Four exams will be given. The questions in the four exams will not be accumulative but be largely restricted to topics covered in the corresponding class lectures, text chapters, and class discussion/activities.

C. A missed exam will be given a zero score. A make-up exam can be arranged if a valid written excuse is provided. The make-up exam should be taken no later than seven days after the missed exam is administered.

E. Grade Distribution. Your final grade will be determined based on the following formula:

Overall exam score	80%
Brain structure quiz score	5%
Written assignment score	5%
Individual presentation	5%
Attendance and Participation	5%

The grading scale for your final grade is as follows:

<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>
≥90	A
80 - 89	B
65 - 79	C
50 - 64	D
<50	F

G. For the graduate students who take this course as PSYC 511, an additional paper (about 10-20 pages long) is required. The topic of the paper has to be selected from the relevant chapter(s) of the textbook and determined by discussing it with the instructor. The paper needs to

be submitted electronically to xtwang@usd.edu no later than Monday, **April 20**. A hardcopy should also be handed by the same due day. Late submission will result in point reduction. The paper and the four exam scores evenly account for 80% of the final grade.

Freedom in Learning.

Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact Associate Dean Kurt Hackemer to initiate a review of the evaluation.”

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook.

No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

- a. Given a zero for that assignment.
- b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- d. Dropped from the course.
- e. Failed in the course.

Disability Policy

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.