

Syllabus for PSYC 711
(Physiological Psychology Seminar)

Fall 2008 (Oct. 6 to Nov. 7)

Instructor: Dr. XT Wang
Place: SDU 404
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00 p.m. at SDU 311
Class Webpage: <http://www.usd.edu/~xtwang/psyc711>

Class: Psyc 711
Time: MWF 3:00 -3:50 p.m.
Phone: 677-5183

This course focuses on the physiological and biochemical bases of human behaviors. The course also outlines different theoretical and empirical approaches to understanding the brain-mind relations.

Course Topics:

- 1) General Issues in Physiological Psychology
- 2) Behavioral Genetics and Evolution of Behavior
- 3) Neurons and Gill Cells
- 4) Neuronal Conduction
- 5) Hormones and Reproductive Behavior*

*Readings: Chapters 1, 2, and 10**
Exam 1 (Wednesday, Oct. 22)

- 6) Neurotransmission
- 7) Nervous Systems
- 8) Brain Anatomy and Functions
- 9) Lateralization and Language
- 10) Emotions*

Readings: Chapters 3, 11 and 14*
Exam 2 (Friday, Nov. 7)

* Self-study topics and relevant chapters

Course Activities and Exams

Overhead slides and brain models will be used in the lectures.

The lectures and in-class discussions will focus on relevant chapters in the textbook, and will also include material beyond the textbook coverage.

Two exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions regarding the 10 topics listed above. The second exam will, for the most part, be restricted to the material covered since the first exam and the two self-study topics. A quiz on identifying brain structures will constitute 20% of the second exam.

The final grade will be determined from an average of the two exam scores, according to the following distribution scale:

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

Text: Carlson, N. (2007). *Physiology of Behavior (9th ed.)*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

References:

- Rosenzweig, M.R.R., S. Marc Breedlove, S.M. Neil V. Watson, N. V (2005). *Biological Psychology: An Introduction to Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience (4th ed.)*, Sinauer.
- Kalat, J. (2007). *Biological Psychology (9th ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
- Gazzaniga, M. S. Ivry, R. B. & Mangun, G. R. (2008). *Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind. (3d ed.)*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.