Textbook and/or Resource Material

- No textbook.
- Turning Technology clicker or TurningPoint smart phone app ([https://www.turningtechnologies.com/response-options](https://www.turningtechnologies.com/response-options)).

Course Description and Prerequisites

Studies of nervous systems. Topics range from physiology of single neurons to neural basis of behavior in intact animals. This course emphasizes comparative methods, with examples drawn from a wide range of invertebrates and vertebrates. Prerequisites: BIOL 2401 or BIOL 3411.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course

Understand the elementary concepts of:

- Understand the electrical and chemical bases of neural signaling.
- Understand the role of neurons in sensorimotor integration.
- Understand the role of different brain regions in cognition.

Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements

This course satisfies no core curriculum requirements.

Grading Policies

Fractions are not rounded up. If you get 79.9%, you have my sympathy, but not a B. Marks are never “curved.” There is no extra credit for anyone ever.

- A = 90% and up
- B = 80% to anything less than 90%
- C = 70% to anything less than 80%
- D = 60% to anything less than 70%
- F = Less than 60%

Online assignments: Four assignments worth 15% each, 60% total. These are mostly written assignments using computer simulations. Late assignments are subject to a -20% per day penalty (i.e., if your assignment is a day late, your best score would be 12, not 15; if your assignment is two days late, your best score would be 9).

In class clicker questions: 40%. Two questions will be scored each class, beginning 11 September. 1 point for correct answers, ¼ point for incorrect answers. If you are here every day and answer every question correctly (2 points per class × 26 classes), you would receive 52 points; I will drop your lowest 12 points, for a max of 40. There are 52 points available for 40 percent of your grade, so you can still get a perfect score even if you miss a few days.

If you miss more than a day due to circumstances beyond your control, provide me with written documentation from an institution, business, physician, etc., of your claim (notes from your family won’t cut it!) so that your scores can be adjusted accordingly.
Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for Fall 2017 include:

- **August 31**: Last day to add a course or register for fall 2017
- **September 4**: Labor Day – no classes
- **September 13**: Assignment 1 due
- **October 4**: Assignment 2 due
- **October 25**: Assignment 3 due
- **November 15**: Assignment 4 due
  - Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- **November 23-26**: American Thanksgiving Holiday – no classes
- **December 6**: Last day of classes

Other Course Information

UTRGV Policy Statements

Students with disabilities

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Mandatory course evaluation period

Students are required to complete an **online** evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

- **Fall 2017**: Nov. 15 – Dec. 6

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

Scholastic integrity

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of
Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Sexual harassment, discrimination, and violence**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**Course drops**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.