PSYC 3353
PHYSIOLOGICAL
PSYCHOLOGY
FALL 2017

SECTION .01R
TR 9:25AM – 10:40AM
ELABN 107

SECTION .02R
TR 10:50AM – 12:05PM
ELABN 107

This upper-level course is designed primarily for psychology majors as a general survey of psychology from the physiological/biological perspective. As a student of psychology, it is important that you develop a competent understanding of the interplay between psychology and physiology.

The course is designed to provide you with (i) an understanding of the human central nervous system’s basic physiological structures and processes; (ii) an understanding of several key topics and issues within the field of physiological psychology, including brain plasticity, language, sexual behavior, psychological disorders, stress, and learning.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
General/Intro Psychology (PSYC 2301 or PSY 1310).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
Biological Psychology, 11th Ed. (2012)
by Kalat.
PUBLISHER: Cengage Learning.
ISBN: 9781111831004
Book is also available in other formats (e.g., rental, e-book)

There are other editions of this book. Assigned readings and exams will be based on the layout and content of this edition. If you choose to purchase a different edition, I cannot assist you with matching content from one edition to another.

YOUR COURSE GRADE
Attendance: 25 points (5 x 5 points)
Quizzes: 55 points (11 x 5 points)
Exam 1: 60 points
Exam 2: 60 points
TOTAL: 200 points

A 90% - 100% 180-200 points
B 80% - 89% 160-179 points
C 70% - 79% 140-159 points
D 60% - 69% 120-139 points
F 0% - 59% < 120 points

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Grant Benham
Office: ELABN 345
Tel: 665-2807
E-Mail: grant.benham@utrgv.edu
Office Hours: By appointment.

COMMUNICATING WITH ME IN-PERSON AND ONLINE
If you need help, please visit with me! My office is on the 3rd floor of ELABN, #345 (North side of building). If you can’t make the office hours, please contact me via email. I am not constantly connected to the internet, so please do not expect an immediate response. You should expect a response within 48 business hours at the most. The subject line of your e-mail must start with “Physio Psych” & include your section #. E-mails must be sent from your UTRGV email account.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

SLO 1: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts and empirical findings in the field of physiological/biological psychology, as assessed through pre-class quizzes and two major exams.

SLO 2: Through graded in-class discussion sessions with their peers, students will be exposed to varying personal perspectives on important issues related physiological psychology, such as the medication of children for psychological disorders, inadequate sleep and sleep disorders, LGBQT issues, and attitudes to mental disorders.

HYBRID COURSE

The course is a reduced-seating (hybrid) course. The first class session will be in-person (traditional classroom). We will then transition to a mixture of online and in-class learning. Physiological psychology involves exposure to a large number of new terms, concepts, and physiological structures; students are expected to devote considerable time outside of class learning the material and working on assigned activities. You are expected to attend all in-person sessions and participate in all assigned online activities.

ATTENDANCE

You are expected to attend all in-class discussion sessions (there are only SIX!). Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class. 5 points will be awarded for each discussion session attended (up to a maximum of 25 points). If you come in late, you must meet with me after class to obtain partial credit (no more than 3 points). You may miss ONE class without penalty; there are a maximum of 25 points for attendance. It is critical that you remember to sign the attendance sheet on the day of class – it is the only record of your having been in class. No allowances will be made for having forgotten to sign in.

Other than the one allowed absence, there are no additional excused absences, unless mandated by UTRGV policy. If you have a scheduled university-sanctioned event that will coincide with the scheduled in-class discussion sessions or exams, you must make arrangements with me at least two weeks in advance.

PRE-CLASS QUIZZES

We will examine various topics each week. As a general rule, you will be expected to complete the material assigned on Blackboard, take the associated online pre-class quizzes, and then meet IN-CLASS to discuss the topic. Quiz questions may be based on any of the assigned material (readings, videos, online content) and will be entirely multiple-choice. There will be twelve quizzes during the semester and the lowest quiz grade (including missed quizzes) will be dropped. In other words, your quiz points will be based on the best 11 quiz grades out of 12 available quizzes. Quizzes must be completed (not started) before 9:00am on the Tuesdays indicated.

Make-up quizzes are not provided. Because quizzes are online, with a large window-of-opportunity to complete them, there will be NO quiz make-ups, regardless of the reason. Bear in mind that your worst quiz grade will be dropped. Therefore, each student can miss one quiz without it severely affecting their grade.

Quizzes (but not exams) are open-book. You can use your textbook and notes during the quiz. Quiz questions will be randomly selected from a pool of questions. However, note that quizzes are timed; you are unlikely to do well if you have not already learned the material. You have one attempt to take each quiz.

If you are still taking your quiz or exam when the time allowed runs out, the test will end automatically and you will be graded based on the questions you answered. If you take your quiz close to the deadline, occasionally BlackBoard will see the quiz as submitted “late”. If you are just a few minutes beyond the deadline, I will manually approve the “late” submission.

EXAMS

A major part of your course grade will be based on two exams. These timed exams will contain 60 questions; you will have 60 minutes to complete them. Exam questions may be based on textbook readings and Blackboard/online content. Because this is a hybrid course, I am offering students two options for taking exams:

1) Take the exam ONLINE using Respondus Lockdown Browser with MONITOR. Note: UTRGV ID must be shown before each online exam.

2) Take a proctored in-person exam during the regularly-scheduled class time.

Please note that you can only choose ONE option for each exam. If you take Exam 1 online, you cannot then take the in-person exam in order to improve your grade. In-person exams are scheduled the day after the online exam
deadline - If you experience technical difficulties when trying to access the online exam, you must sit for the in-person exam the next day.

Exam deadlines are indicated in the timetable at the end of the syllabus. Your score will be available after completing the exam. Exam feedback (items that you got correct/incorrect and the correct answers to items you missed) will be made available after all in-class exams have been administered. EXAMS (both Respondus MONITOR and in-person) are closed-book. You should not use your textbook, notes, or any other reference materials (electronic or otherwise) during the exam. In-person exams will be proctored and online exams will be reviewed using the MONITOR recorded webcam feature.

As an aid to studying for the exam, I will post a practice exam that can be taken prior to the scheduled exam dates. This exam will contain 30 questions and will be a timed (30-minute) exam. The exam will be scored so that you can see your grade, but those points will not be counted toward your course grade. The practice exam can only be taken once and I cannot offer to reset the exam if you experience technical issues (such as your internet connection being lost during the practice exam). This practice exam is entirely optional.

### EXAM/QUIZ SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>QUIZZES</th>
<th>ONLINE EXAMS</th>
<th>IN-PERSON EXAMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What’s the test deadline?</strong></td>
<td>9am on the Tuesdays we meet for in-class discussion.</td>
<td>9am on the Mondays indicated in the timetable.</td>
<td>During class time on the Tuesdays indicated in the timetable.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open or closed book?</strong></td>
<td>Open book</td>
<td>Closed book</td>
<td>Closed book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of questions?</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is test timed?</strong></td>
<td>Yes, 5 minutes.</td>
<td>Yes, one-hour.</td>
<td>Yes, one-hour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is equipment required?</strong></td>
<td>Yes, computer with reliable internet access.</td>
<td>Yes, computer with reliable internet access, Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus MONITOR installed.</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is test monitored?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, using Respondus MONITOR (webcam recording).</td>
<td>Yes, proctored by professor or Teaching Assistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are make-ups allowed?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No. If you miss the online exam deadline, you must take the in-person exam the following day.</td>
<td>Only in exceptional circumstances. I rarely allow for make-ups on exams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can groups work on tests together?</strong></td>
<td>No. All tests must be completed independently; if it is determined that you collaborated on a test, you will receive a grade of zero on that test.</td>
<td>No. All tests must be completed independently; if it is determined that you collaborated on a test, you will receive a grade of zero on that test.</td>
<td>No. All tests must be completed independently; if it is determined that you collaborated on a test, you will receive a grade of zero on that test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is a practice test available?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, a 30-minute online practice test can be taken prior to the scheduled exam.</td>
<td>Yes, a 30-minute online practice test can be taken prior to the scheduled exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is the advantage of this test administration method?</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Flexibility in when and where the exam is taken.</td>
<td>No need for specialized lockdown/MONITOR software (reduced risk of technical problems). No concerns over exam attempt being video-recorded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Final Exam**
There is no final exam for this course.

**Extra Credit**
No extra credit is offered for this class.

**Classroom Etiquette**
When we meet in class, I encourage you to be actively engaged in classroom discussions. However, to maintain an active learning environment, I have the following rules of classroom etiquette:

1. **Phones** should be switched to vibrate, or turned off. If you receive an **important** call, you may leave the room to return the call (do not answer the call in class, even on your way out!)
2. **Laptops, netbooks, smartphones, etc. cannot be used during class.** I need you to be “mentally present” and these devices are notorious for encouraging multitasking behavior. Multitasking has been shown to affect cognitive functioning, does not allow you to be as focused, and is disrespectful to your peers and professor. Picture an entire class engaging in multitasking behavior: what sort of environment would that create? If I see that you are using a phone or laptop in class, I will deduct attendance points.
3. Feel free to ask questions. To give everyone a chance to speak, **please raise your hand** rather than blurt out comments.
4. Other than organized activities/discussions, please do not chat with your neighbors during class. It seems like this wouldn’t be too disruptive, but I always have students complain that others are making it difficult for them to concentrate.
5. Students often are unsure as to how to address their professors. I prefer to be called “**Dr. Benham**”
6. If you decide to drop the course, please make sure any members of your group who are depending on you are aware that you will no longer be participating. Please also let me know.
7. If you miss a class, please do not contact me to ask what you missed or whether you “**missed anything important**”. Please be aware that such questions have been known to provoke a withering look and/or sarcastic response.

**Blackboard**
This class will be using BlackBoard, an online course management system. Students are responsible for checking BlackBoard announcements, keeping up with assignments, taking quizzes and exams. **There will not be any make-up quizzes or exams given as a result of internet connection problems.** You will have plenty of time to take quizzes and exams and can always make use of university computers if there are any concerns about access to, or reliability of, your own internet service.

**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](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: **Nov. 15 – Dec. 6**

**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, 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 in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

DROPPING THE COURSE
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. I do not drop students for nonattendance or poor grades. If you must drop the class, be sure to take care of that paperwork yourself.

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.
Please note that all YouTube videos that I have created within the “Review It” sections of the course have accurate Closed Captioning available. Just click on the CC button below the video to activate.

NETIQUETTE
Netiquette is online etiquette. It is important that all participants in online courses be aware of proper online behavior and respect each other.

Use appropriate language for an educational environment:
1. Use complete sentences
2. Use proper spelling and grammar
3. Avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations
4. Avoid online acronyms and shorthand (LOL), particularly in e-mails to your professor.
5. Do not use obscene or threatening language
6. Remember that the University values diversity and encourages discourse. Be respectful of differences while engaging in online discussions. For more information about Netiquette, see The Core Rules for Netiquette.

COMPUTER/INTERNET REQUIREMENTS
Internet Access: To take this course, you must have access to a computer with an Internet connection and a UTRGV email account. A broadband Internet connection is preferred. Many students use computers in public libraries, the university library, and other on-campus public use Wi-Fi areas to complete their course work.

Supported Operating Systems and Browsers: In order for Blackboard to function properly on your computer, you must be using a compatible operating system and browser. Blackboard maintains a matrix of supported browsers, plugins and operating systems that have been validated for use. Other browsers and operating systems may work, but
are not “supported” by Blackboard. As a general rule, older browsers are not supported. If you use up-to-date versions of Microsoft Edge, Chrome, or Safari, you should be OK. **If you opt to take one or both of the major exams online**, you will need Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor (webcam recording). Therefore, you must use a computer that has a working webcam and must install Respondus Lockdown Browser. You must also show your **UTRGV ID** to the webcam before taking the tests, so be sure that you have it with you.

**Java**: Java is a program that allows many of the tools in Blackboard to function. You may already have one or more versions of Java on your computer. To reduce issues with BlackBoard, and to reduce risk from security vulnerabilities, it is recommended to keep your version of Java up-to-date. It is also best to remove any old versions of Java from your computer when you update.

**Additional Software and Plug-ins**: Parts of the course may require additional software or browser plug-ins. In particular:
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (for PDF document files)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (for PPTX presentation files)
- Adobe Flash Player

If you experience **technical difficulties**, please contact **COLTT**.

**SKILLS REQUIRED FOR ONLINE COURSES**

Online courses offer certain benefits over traditional classroom courses, but are not for everyone. To be a successful online learner you must be self-directed and have good time management skills. Online learners work well alone and are comfortable without the social elements of face-to-face courses in the classroom. You are expected to log on to Blackboard regularly. Think of Blackboard as a place to locate essential information that you will need to complete a course. You will find the following types of information on Blackboard:
- Announcements
- Course documents/materials
- Course syllabus
- Assignments
- Exams/quizzes
- Discussion boards
- Grades

This online course is set up in sessions (a.k.a. units/modules). It is important to work at an appropriate pace so you don’t fall behind.

Some students think online courses are as much work as face-to-face courses, and some say it actually takes additional time to do the work. You must be sure that you have allocated at least as much time to complete the online coursework as you would have spent in the classroom, plus time for homework.

Tests done online are automatically graded, with the grade posted immediately after the due date. The time and date of your submission are automatically recorded and must meet any deadline requirements to receive the associated points.

Discussion is an important part of both face-to-face courses and online courses; discussions for this course will take place in-class rather than through online discussion boards.
**COURSE TIMETABLE**

**Note:**
- **Quiz deadlines** are 9:00am on the Tuesday that we meet for our In-Class Discussion Session.
- **Online exam deadlines** are 9:00am on the dates indicated in the timetable below.
- **In-person exams** are administered during the regularly-scheduled class time on the dates indicated below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Meetings/Deadlines</th>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Overview of Course</td>
<td>Aug 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Orientation and Introductions 1. Introduction to Physiological Psychology 2. Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses</td>
<td>Sep 12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3. Synapses, Drugs, Addiction 4. Brain Anatomy, Development, &amp; Plasticity</td>
<td>Sep 26</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5. The Medicated Child 6. Brain Lateralization</td>
<td>Oct 10</td>
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<td>EXAM 1</td>
<td>Oct 16</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
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<td>7. Learning, Memory, &amp; Amnesia 8. Sex</td>
<td>Oct 31</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>9. Stress &amp; Emotions 10. Sleep</td>
<td>Nov 14</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11. Mood Disorders 12. Schizophrenia</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
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<td>EXAM 2</td>
<td>Dec 4</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
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