

## Syllabus

**Course:** Physiological Psychology  
PSYC 372 – 002

**Time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:30 pm-2:20 pm  
Fall 2006

**Location:** Robinson Hall B203

**Instructor:** Adriana M. Falco (afalco@gmu.edu)

**Office hours:** Monday 3:00 pm-4:00pm, or by appointment  
DKH 2030 (Lab), Office phone: 703-993-1358  
(In DKH enter double doors (lab), turn left and take first right. My office is first door on your right.)

**Required Text:** Kalat J.W. (2006) Biological Psychology, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning: Belmont, CA  
<http://www.campusstores.com/gmu/index.asp>

### Course objectives:

- Introduce the field of neuroscience, including basic neuroanatomy, neural and synaptic transmission, neural mechanisms underlying normal and abnormal behavior, and biological mechanisms of drug action.
- Develop a foundation for the understanding of the central nervous system.
- Promote awareness of how brain function relates to behavior.

### Assignments:

- 1) Complete in a timely manner the readings from the text.
- 2) There are a total of two exams, a mid-term and final exam. The exams will include multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions from lecture and the text. The final exam will be cumulative. Each exam will be worth 30% of your total grade. **There will be no make-up exams and no extra-credit.**
- 3) You will be required to complete a 7-10 page research paper on a topic of your choice that pertains to physiological psychology (topic subject to prior approval). Sources must be from major scientific journals in the field. The paper must be written in APA style. Grades will be determined on content, structure, grammar, and spelling. This assignment is also worth 30% of the final grade. Further instructions will be given in class.
- 4) Pop quizzes will be given every week on a day selected by the instructor. Questions may cover any material previously covered in class. Quizzes will be worth 10% of the grade. **There will be no make-up quizzes without exception.**

### Grading:

**MID-TERM (30%) + QUIZZES (10%) + PAPER (30%) + FINAL EXAM (30%) = 100%**

A+ = 97 – 100%	C+ = 77-79%
A = 93 – 96%	C = 73 – 76%
A- = 90 – 92%	C- = 70 – 72%
B+ = 87 – 89%	D = 60 – 69%
B = 83 – 86%	F = 0 – 59%
B- = 80 – 82%	

**Special needs:**

Every effort possible will be made to accommodate students with a disability or other special need. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Add/drop deadline:**

Last day to add – September 12th

Last day to drop – September 29th

**Honor code:**

Students are reminded of the University honor code and are expected to adhere to the principles thereof.

**Schedule\*:**

8/28-9/1	Ch. 1: Introduction and Ch. 2: Neurons
9/4-9/8	Ch. 2: Neurons and Ch. 3: Synapses (University closed 9/4)
9/11-9/15	Ch.3: Synapses and Ch. 4: Anatomy of Nervous System
9/18-9/22	Ch. 5 : Development and Plasticity of Brain. (We will also discuss research paper.)
9/25-9/29	Ch. 5: Dev. of Brain and Ch. 6: Vision
10/2-10/6	Ch. 7: The Other Senses
10/9-10/13	Ch. 8: Movement (Monday's class is on 10/10 due to Columbus Day)

**Class Cancelled Monday 10/16 due to SFN Conference****10/18 Mid-term exam**

10/20, 10/23-27	Ch. 9: Wakefulness and Sleep & Ch. 11: Reproductive Behaviors
10/30-11/3	Ch. 12: Emotional Behaviors
11/6-11/10	Ch. 13: Learning and Memory
11/13-17, 11/20	Ch. 13: Learning and Memory & Ch. 14: Cognitive Functions

**Papers due Friday, 11/17**

11/22-11/26	Thanksgiving Break
11/27-12/1	Ch.15: Psychological Disorders
12/4-12/8	Catch-up and/or Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam, Wednesday, 12/13/06, 1:30-4:15 pm**

**\*schedule may change without prior notice**