Physiological Psychology Lab
PSYC 373 - 201, 202 Spring 2006

Instructor: Jennifer Brielmaier **E-mail address:** jbrielma@gmu.edu
Class time: Monday 8:30 – 10:20 AM (section 201)
Monday 10:30 AM – 12:20 PM (section 202)
Class location: DK 3044 **Office phone #:** 703-993-1358
Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00 PM & by appt. **Office location:** DK 2027

Goals of Lab: The primary goal of this lab is for students to learn mammalian brain and eye structure location with some understanding of related function. A secondary goal is for students to gain critical skills in interpreting peer-reviewed research literature, specifically neuroscience-related literature, and to develop presentation skills.

Materials you need to buy:

- Dissection kit (available in bookstore)
- 2 small Tupperware containers or Zip-lock bags to store brains
- Copy of handouts packet from bookstore
- Cooley, R.K., & Vanderwolf, C.H. (2004). The Sheep Brain: A Basic Guide. A.J. Kirby Co.: London.

Things to Know: It is strongly recommended that you attend class. The material I cover in class will be on quizzes and exams. Attendance during dissections is imperative—this is your only opportunity to view the sheep brain/eye**.** If you must miss class—please go to a classmate first for notes. I will be glad to meet with you to discuss anything after you do this. Beware that, although I will try to show you a missed dissection during the next lab, this is not always possible.
NOTE: You are responsible for all announcements and any syllabus modifications made in class each week whether you are present or not.

Lab Practical Exams: Practicals are approximately 50% of your grade in this lab. These exams consist of several pinned brains/brain parts. You will be expected to identify &/or answer question(s) about each. The Lab Practical Exams cannot be made up at a later date! This is extremely important, as the nature of the exam does not allow it to be reproduced or preserved.

Quizzes: There will be 2 quizzes worth 30 points each based on lecture material covered in class. These quizzes will not require identification of pinned brains/brain parts. Questions might be in the form of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, labeling a diagram, or short answer.

Article summary: Each student will select an article from a recent Neuroscience/Biopsychology Journal (published within the past two years). A worksheet detailing the format of your article summary will be passed out in class. A photocopy of the complete article must be turned in with your summary. All references must be cited in APA format, which we will discuss before the assignment is due.

Presentations: Each student must give an 8-10 minute presentation on a neuroscience/biology topic of his/her choice. Topic choices must be approved by me no later than February 13. You may want to consider using your written article summary as a potential topic. On April 3 you

must turn in to me an outline of your proposed presentation. Be sure to include all references. I will provide feedback and help you to prepare for your presentation. Each student will be required to provide some sort of visual aid (handouts, overheads, PowerPoint presentation) to accompany the presentation. Additionally, each student will receive written feedback on the presentation from classmates. Part of your presentation grade will be based on your presence at others' presentations.

Policy Regarding Late Assignments:
Unless the student has obtained my consent to postpone an assignment, including quizzes, or has written medical documentation for absence from a quiz or other assignment, there will be an automatic grade-loss penalty of 10% that will be deducted from the score of the make-up quiz or late assignment. Permission to postpone a quiz or to turn in an assignment late will only be given for very important and acute reasons. Any make-up quiz will be structured like the original quiz, but the content may be different. If a late assignment is not turned in or if a quiz is not taken before the following Monday's class meeting, a zero will be given for that assignment

The GMU honor code will be strictly enforced. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the University Honor Board &/or penalized. You should cite any information that you are using in APA format for all assignments in this class.

Some of the material in this course can be difficult to grasp. Be patient—by listening in class and talking to classmates and myself, it will become more familiar. I welcome questions via e-mail anytime. I will also be glad to meet with you during office hours or by appointment concerning class material.

This course does require participation in dissection of animal parts. If you have a concern about this, please come talk to me as soon as possible.

Technology statement: Required knowledge of technology for this course includes ability to retrieve handouts sent via email to your GMU address as well as WebCT. Occasionally I may use computer programs or the Internet in class to present demonstrations of relevant material. You may also wish to use websites provided by me to study for the lab practical exams.

Students with Disabilities: 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 Deadlines: The last day to add a class is **February 7th**. The last day to drop a class is **February 24th**.

Tentative Course Schedule:		**Assignments Due:**
January 23	Introduction/Neurophysiology	

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January 30	Neurophysiology cont'd (The Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potentials)	
February 6	**Quiz 1 (Neurophysiology/Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potentials** Brain Tour Part I	Sheep brains provided
February 13	Brain Tour Part II (Cranial Nerves)	**Presentation Topic Due**
February 20	Study Session for Lab Practical 1	
February 27	**Lab Practical I (Brain Tours I & II)**	
March 6	Visual System (Sheep Eye Dissection)	**Article Summary Due** Eyeballs provided
March 13	**SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**	
March 20	**Quiz 2 (Visual System)** Midsagittal Dissection	
March 27	Midsagittal Dissection (cont.) Fornix/Hippocampal Region Dissection	
April 3	Coronal Dissection	**Presentation Outline Due**
April 10	Study Session/Review of dissections for Lab Practical 2	
April 17	**Lab Practical 2 (cumulative)**	
April 24	**Presentations**	Present topic
May 1	**Presentations**	Present topic

Grading:

Quizzes (30 pts x 2)	60 points
Lab Practical 1	50 points
Lab Practical 2	100 points
Presentation	40 points
Presentation Outline	10 points
Article Summary	30 points
Total	**290 points**

A+ (97%+); A (93-96%); A- (90-92%); B+ (87-89%); B (83-86%); B- (80-82%);
C+ (77-79%); C (73-76%); C- (70-72%); D (60-69%); F (59% & below)