

Physiological Psychology Lab PSYC 373 - 203, 204 Spring 2006

Instructor:	Andrea Fitzgerald	E-mail address:	afitzge3@gmu.edu
Class time:	203: 6pm-7:50pm 204: 8pm-9:50pm		
Class location:	DK 3044	Office phone #:	703-993-1358
Office hours:	Wed. 11:30-12:30 and by appt.	Office location:	DK 2027

Goals of Lab: The primary goal of this lab is for students to learn 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.

Materials you need to buy:

- ❑ Dissection kit
- ❑ 2 small Tupperware containers to store brains or Zip-lock bags
- ❑ Cooley, R.K., & Vanderwolf, C.H. (2001). *The Sheep Brain: A Basic Guide*. A.J. Kirby Co.: London.

Things to know: It is strongly recommended that you attend class. Material covered in lab will be on quizzes and exams. Attendance during dissections is imperative **this is your only opportunity to view the sheep brain and eye** If you must miss class, please ask fellow classmates for notes before coming to me. I will be glad to meet with you to discuss anything after you do this. It is not always possible to make-up a missed dissection. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent for a class, talk to me and I may possibly be able to arrange for you to attend another lab time. (This will not be acceptable on days we have quizzes, exams, and presentations).

NOTE: You are responsible for any and all announcements and modifications made to the syllabus whether you are present each week or not.

Lab Practical Exams are approximately 50% of your grade in this lab. These exams consist of several pinned brains/brain parts. You will be expected to identify and/or answer question(s) about each. The Lab Practical Exams cannot be made up at a later date. 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 will be in the form of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, labeling a diagram, or short answer. Unless the student has obtained my consent to postpone a quiz or has written medical documentation for absence from a quiz, there will be an automatic grade-loss penalty of 10% that will be deducted from the score of the make-up quiz. Permission to postpone a quiz will only be given for very important and acute reasons. The make-up quiz will be structured like the original quiz, but the content may be different.

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 made available ahead of time. A photocopy of the complete article must be

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turned in with your summary. All references must be cited in APA format, which we will discuss before the assignment is due. No emailed article summaries will be accepted. There will be an automatic grade-loss penalty of 10% each week the assignment is late.

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 November 7 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.**

Assignment deadlines and guidelines: All assignments are to be typed and turned in at the beginning of lab. There will be an automatic grade-loss penalty of 10% each week the assignment is late.

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. Information used from an outside source must be cited in correct APA format.

The topics covered in this course can be difficult to grasp. By attending classes and discussing the information with classmates and myself, you should be able to obtain a better understanding of the material. Feel free to meet with me during office hours or by appointment concerning this material or send me questions and/or comments via e-mail.

Technology statement: Required knowledge of technology for this course includes ability to retrieve handouts sent via email to your GMU address. 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**.

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

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	Tentative Course Schedule:	Assignments Due:
January 23	Introduction/Neurophysiology	None
January 30	Neurophysiology cont'd (Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential)	None
February 6	QUIZ 1 (Neurophysiology, Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential) Brain Tour Part I	Sheep Brains provided Bring in containers for brains
February 7	LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES	
February 13	Brain Tour Part II (Cranial Nerves)	Presentation Topic Due
February 20	Lab Activities & Study Session for Lab Practical 1	None
February 24	LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES	
February 27	Lab Practical I (Brain Tours I & II)	None
March 6	Visual System (Sheep Eye Dissection)	Article Summary Due Eyeballs provided
March 13	NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)	
March 20	Quiz 2 (visual system) Midsagittal Dissection	None
March 27	Fornix/Hippocampal Region and Coronal Dissections	None
April 3	Study Session/Review of dissections for Lab Practical II	Presentation Outline Due
April 10	Lab Practical II (cumulative)	
April 17	Presentations	Present topic on your day
April 24	Presentations	Present topic on your day
May 1	Presentations	Present topic on your day

Grades:

Attendance/participation	10 points
Quizzes (30 pts each 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	300 points

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