

Physiological Psychology Lab PSYC 373 – 2C2, SUMMER 2006

Instructor:	Caitlin Groeber	E-mail address:	cgroeber@gmu.edu
Class time:	Tuesday/Thursday 8:30 – 11:20 AM		
Class location:	DK 3044	Office phone #:	703-993-1358
Office hours:	T 11:30–12:30PM & 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 Purchase:

- Dissection kit
- Medium Tupperware container to store brains
- Cooley, R.K., & Vanderwolf, C.H. (2001). *The Sheep Brain: A Basic Guide*. A.J. Kirby Co.: London.

****Material covered in lab will be the basis of quizzes and exams, so you are highly encouraged to attend lab. Attendance during dissections is especially essential because these will be your only chance to use the sheep brain and eye. If you do miss class, please ask fellow classmates for notes before coming to me for help. It will not often be possible to repeat missed dissections in lab the following lab period. If you know you will be absent for a class ahead of time, 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). **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:** 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, and/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.

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****Article Summary:** Each student will select an article from a popular newspaper or magazine that relates to the topics covered in PSYC 373 or 372 (published during 2006). 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. No emailed article summaries will be accepted. There will be an automatic grade-loss penalty of 10% each lab meeting 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 July 13. You may want to consider using your written article summary as a potential topic. On July 27 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.

****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 that must be 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.

****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:
July 6	Introduction/Neurophysiology (Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential)	None
July 11	Quiz 1 (Neurophysiology, Action Potential/Postsynaptic Potential) Brain Tour Part I	Sheep Brains Provided
July 11	LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES	
July 13	Brain Tour Part II (Cranial Nerves) Study Session for Lab Practical 1	Presentation Topic Due
July 14	LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES	
July 18	Lab Practical 1 (Brain Tours I & II)	None
July 20	Visual System (Sheep Eye Dissection)	Article Summary Due Eyeballs Provided
July 25	Quiz 2 (visual system) Midsagittal Dissection and Fornix/Hippocampal Region	None
July 27	Coronal Dissections Study Session/Review of dissections for Lab Practical 2	Presentation Outline Due
August 1	Lab Practical 2 (cumulative)	None
August 3	Presentations	Present topic on your day

Grades:

Quizzes (30 pts x 2)	60 points
Attendance and Participation	10 points
Lab Practical 1	50 points
Lab Practical 2	100 points
Presentation Outline	10 points
Presentation	40 points
Article Summaries	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%); C- (70-72%); D (60-69%); F (59% & below)