

PSYC 241

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOBIOLOGY

CERRITOS COLLEGE, FALL 2009

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Course Objectives

This course is designed to give students a general understanding of the biological basis of behavior. Students will study the anatomy, physiology and neurochemistry of the nervous system of humans and animals and learn how nervous system functioning contributes to normal and pathological behaviors. This course also satisfies the general education requirement for a biological science.

Textbook (required)

Kalat, J.W., (2009). *Biological Psychology*, 10th Ed., Wadsworth-Cengage Learning: Belmont, CA.

It will be difficult to do well in this course without the textbook. New and/or used copies should be available in the campus bookstore. You can also obtain a copy on-line or from other local textbook vendors. Sometimes shopping around can save you a few dollars. If for some reason you cannot purchase a textbook, let me know, and I can arrange to have a book put on reserve to be read in the library. Furthermore, it would be a good idea to complete the assigned readings prior to the class meetings.

	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Week 1	Introduction	Ch. 1
Week 2	Introduction	Ch. 1
Week 3	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Ch. 2
Week 4	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Ch. 2
Week 5	Synapses	Ch. 3
Week 6	Synapses	Ch. 3
Week 7	Synapses and Drugs	Ch. 3
Week 8	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Ch. 4
Week 9	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Ch. 4
Week 10	Movement	Ch. 8.3
Week 11	MIDTERM EXAM	
Week 12	Internal Regulation	Ch. 10
Week 13	Internal Regulation	Ch. 10
Week 14	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Ch. 13
Week 15	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Ch. 13
Week 16	Emotional Behaviors, Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Ch. 12.2, 15
Week 17	Emotional Behaviors, Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Ch. 12.2, 15
Week 18	FINAL EXAM	Comprehensive

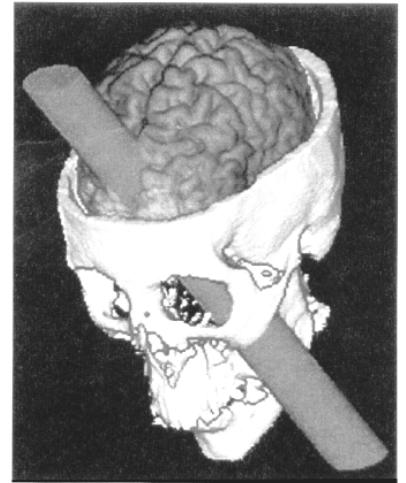


FIGURE 12.1 In the 1990s researchers used modern technology to reconstruct the path that an iron bar must have made through the brain of Phineas Gage, who survived this injury in 1848. The damage impaired Gage's judgment and decision-making ability. (From Damasio, Grabowski, Frank, Galaburda, & Damasio, 1994.)

Coursework and Grading

There will be three (3) quizzes, one (1) midterm exam and one (1) final exam. Quizzes will be announced one week prior to the quiz date and will be given at the beginning of class. They may include multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank and/or short answer questions. Exams will be multiple choice, and you must take both. Exam and quiz questions will come from material covered in class and in the textbook.. **If you are late to class, you will not be allowed to take the quizzes or exams.** No makeups for exams or quizzes will be given without prior notification and/or documentation of an emergency. If you find that you are having difficulty with the course, you can seek additional assistance at the Academic Support Center. Also if you need special accommodations while taking exams or quizzes let me know in advance. An approximate grade/point breakdown is shown below, and final course grades will be based on a subjective curve.

Graded Coursework

Quizzes	75 Points
Midterm	50 Points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 Points</u>
Total	225 Points

Grade Breakdown

A = 90%
B = 80%
C = 70%
D = 60%
F = 59% or less

(Example: $225 \times 90\% = 203$ points for the "A")

(Example: $225 \times 80\% = 180$ points for the "B" and so on)

Attendance/Classroom Etiquette

You are expected to attend class each meeting, and attendance will be taken regularly. **While it is your responsibility to officially drop the course if you no longer wish to be enrolled, I may automatically drop students who fail to attend class regularly. You are also expected to show up for class on time and stay for the entire class period. Excessive tardiness or leaving class early on a regular basis may also result in you being dropped from the course.** As for classroom etiquette, **you are in college and are expected to act accordingly.** While I encourage students to participate and ask questions, inappropriate, disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviors will not be tolerated. These inappropriate behaviors include, but are not limited to, talking to others during class, passing notes, doing work for other classes, text messaging or sleeping. Additionally, **turn off your cell phones before coming to class.** If I feel that anyone is disrupting the learning environment for any reason, that person or persons may be asked to leave, may have points deducted from their grades, or may be dropped from the course.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism (the theft of language, ideas or thoughts from another that are represented as one's own original work) and cheating are serious offenses and **will not be tolerated.** Disciplinary actions for such offenses include an "F" on the test or assignment, "F" in the course and/or possible expulsion from the college.