



蘇州大學
Soochow University

PSY 299 Biological Psychology

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Biological Psychology is an engaging exploration into the intricate relationship between the brain, behavior, and cognition. This course delves into the neural underpinnings of cognitive processes, providing a comprehensive understanding of the field of biological psychology and its intersection with neuroscience. During this course, students will be introduced to this dynamic field, which investigates the brain, its structure and function, and the ways in which the brain drives behaviors.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental principles of biological psychology.
2. Explore the neural mechanisms underlying cognitive processes and behavior.
3. Analyze the relationship between brain structure and function.
4. Examine the impact of neurological disorders on psychological functioning.
5. Develop critical thinking skills in evaluating research within the biological psychology domain.

PREREQUISITES

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points



Midterm Exam	30 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

1. Neil R. Carlson, *Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience*(9th ed), 2017, Pearson Education.
2. David Eagleman and Jonathan Downar, *Brain and Behavior: A Cognitive Neuroscience Perspective*, 2018, OUP USA.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Introductions and Course Overview Topic 2: Neural Anatomy and Organization; Neurotransmitters and Neuromodulators Topic 3: Sensation and Perception Topic 4: Motor Control and Movement</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment # 1</p>
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Sleep and Circadian Rhythms Topic 6: Emotion and the Brain Topic 7: Stress and the Neuroendocrine System Topic 8: Memory and Amnesia</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz # 1</p>



Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Language Processing and the Brain Topic 10: Executive Functions and Frontal Lobes Topic 11: Vision: From Retina to Visual Cortex Topic 12: Auditory Processing and Hearing Assessments: Midterm Exam
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Somatosensory System: Touch and Pain Topic 14: Neural Mechanisms of Motivation Topic 15: Sexual Behavior and the Brain Topic 16: Social Cognition and Mirror Neurons Assessments: Assignment # 2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Neural Substrates of Psychiatric Disorders Topic 18: Brain Imaging Techniques Topic 19: Brain Injuries and Rehabilitation Topic 20: Future Directions in Biological Psychology Research Assessments: Quiz # 2 Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.



LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a



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learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.