

PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY 314-001
Fall 2025

Professor: Laura Pawlow, Ph.D.
Office: Alumni Hall, Room 0135
E-mail: lpawlow@siue.edu
Phone: 650-2608

Class Location: Alumni Hall 0401
Days: Tuesday and Thursday
Time: 8-9:15
Office Hours: Tues 9:30-10:30 and by appointment
Course Information available on Blackboard

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the biology behind behavior, including the structure and function of the brain as related to personality, normal and pathological behavior, and health. Topics to be covered include attention, the sensory systems, memory, mood, emotions, and learning. Methods of studying the central nervous system will be introduced. Ethical issues involving biological psychology will be discussed.

Course Goals:

*To increase understanding of the place of biological psychology in psychology *To increase understanding of the experimental approaches to brain-behavioral relationships *To increase understanding of nervous system mechanisms in the control of physiological responses and behavior *To introduce ethical issues surrounding physiological psychology *To increase knowledge of drug interactions, brain functioning, and behavior *To introduce the role of genetics in normal and abnormal brain function *To introduce the influence of disease or injury on brain function and behavior *To increase awareness of the relationship between human behavior and neural development.

Required Readings:

- James W. Kalat, Biological Psychology, 13th Edition, Thomson Wadsworth

Workload:

LOTS of reading, 3 exams (non-cumulative). Don't get behind in your reading or studying!

Class Demeanor: This is a challenging class, and most of you are either taking it because you truly enjoy the material, or you need it as a pre-requisite for graduate school. As such, I will expect you to act as though you either really enjoy the material or really want to get into graduate school! ☺ That translates into coming to class regularly and being on time, paying attention, demonstrating interest and understanding, asking questions or making appropriate comments during class, coming to see me if you're lost, etc. Many of you will ask me for a letter of recommendation at some point – you want to put yourself in the position to have a good grade and for me to see you as a serious, dedicated student. Look for ways to showcase yourself by participating in class and being able to answer questions!

Grades:

100 points each (300 total) – Exams

A = 90-100% B = 80-89.9% C = 70-79.9% D = 60-69.9% F = below 59.9%

POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness – I generally expect you to attend this class regularly and to be on time. I will take attendance at the start of each class period in order to help myself learn your names and also get a sense of who regularly attends; however, there will be no official attendance policy this semester.

Missed class – A few years ago when I taught this class, I recorded all the lectures and those are available to you on your Blackboard site under the "Coursework" tab - at the very top it will say "Click here to access zoom recordings" and then when you click, you'll see a menu of each recorded zoom by topic. If you have to miss class for any reason, I encourage you to watch the portion of the lecture you missed; it won't line up perfectly with this year's lecture, but it will be very close and certainly better than missing that lecture altogether! I'd also strongly encourage you to get any lecture notes from a classmate. Find a class buddy or two ASAP with whom you can exchange notes if you must miss a class. The video lectures will be very similar to this year's lectures, but please keep two things in mind:

- Most of the recordings have some "dead time" at the beginning where I'm waiting for students to show up, taking roll, making announcements, etc. Just forward through to the beginning of the lecture.

- You may have to hunt around a little bit in the videos to determine where to start based on the last part of the lecture you heard prior to your absence.

Exams – You are expected to take exams, in the classroom, at the scheduled time. If you are unable to attend exam 1 and/or exam 2 at the scheduled time, **you may take the missed exam(s) at the same time as the final. You may not miss exam 3 as there will be no make up date.**

Extra Credit Opportunity –

Dr. Rocky Garrison - This fall, SIUE is thrilled to welcome Dr. Rocky Harrison to campus as a visiting scholar. Dr. Garrison's doctorate is in Child and Family Clinical Psychology, and he has many years of clinical work, teaching, supervision, and research under his belt. One of his areas of expertise is Behavioral Sleep medicine and he's done extensive work with insomnia in a sleep clinic. I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Garrison to our class on 11/4 and I hope you will prepare some good questions for him regarding the practice of clinical psychology and working with children, families, and/or sleep, etc. Those who attend class that day (2 points) and ask him an engaging question (3 more points) can earn up to 5 bonus points on the final exam. I would come to class with questions prepared ahead of time (I'd prepare a few in case someone else asks your question before you do!)

Students with Special Needs – Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with **Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS)** and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis but do not have documentation should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by e-mail at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618.650.3726. If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at www.siue.edu/access.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY POLICY ON INCOMPLETE GRADES AND WITHDRAWAL

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by a similarly late date (i.e., before 82% of class meetings have occurred) in any summer term. Grades that apply to students who initiate a withdrawal and grades that apply when a student fails to officially withdraw within established deadlines are determined by university policy (see <http://www.siue.edu/policies/1j1.shtml>). The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic. It is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the coursework before the deadline for grade submission. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY WRITING POLICY - As a student in this course, you will be expected to display university-level writing, which includes completing course assignments that meet the following basic writing criteria. Specifically, all written assignments completed for this course should include:

- clear transitions from sentence to sentence and idea to idea (e.g., paper is organized/flows well);
- verb tense consistency;
- clear and unambiguous sentences and ideas;
- writing that is free of typos, spelling errors, and major grammatical errors;
- properly formatted citations and references (if relevant).

This is by no means an exhaustive list of basic writing skills but will give you an idea of what we are looking for in our papers. If you feel you need help with your writing, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the writing center on campus (<http://www.siue.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siue.edu/is/writing/resources.shtml>). If your graded written assignments fail to meet the basic writing requirements listed above (and any others found to be appropriate by your instructor), the instructor will stop the grading process and return the paper to you (see below for the specific policy for this class).

The penalty for unacceptable writing in this class is as follows: A grade of zero until an acceptable draft is turned in prior to the stated deadline.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY POLICY ON PLAGIARISM - Plagiarism includes presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source), presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source, or presenting

one's own previous work as though it were new. When paraphrasing from another source or your own work, at the very least, the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Additionally, you should not submit a paper, or parts of a paper, written to fulfill the requirements of one class for the requirements in another class without prior approval of the current instructor and appropriate citation. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

Diversity and Inclusion: SIUE is committed to respecting everyone's dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Hub <https://www.siu.edu/csd> is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or jball@siue.edu. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10.

SIUE Mental Health Resources: SIUE is now partnered with [TimelyCare](#) to deliver a new virtual health and well-being platform for students. Through either a mobile app or your desktop, TimelyCare provides 24/7 access to virtual care from anywhere in the United States at no cost. Visit timelycare.com/SIU or download the TimelyCare app from your app store and register with your school email address. You can then start visits from any web-enabled device – smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop – anywhere in the United States.

What services are available?

- TalkNow - 24/7, on-demand emotional support.
- Scheduled Counseling - Select the day, time, and mental health provider of your choice. (9 visits/year)
- Health Coaching - Support for developing healthy behaviors.
- Basic Needs Support - Get connected to low or reduced-cost community resources.
- Self-Care Content – Yoga, meditation, & group conversations with our providers on a variety of health/well-being topics.

Cancelled Class: It is university policy that should class be cancelled for any reason (e.g., my illness, a snow day, etc.), a substitute assignment be in place to make up for the missed class period. If class is cancelled for any reason this semester, I would ask you to spend the class time watching the corresponding lecture video from Blackboard.

Twitter: Our department's Twitter page (@SIUEpsychology) is a great way to get announcements, find out what is happening in the department, and learn more about recent psychology news.

Approximate Schedule*: *Schedule (**including exams!**) may change at the discretion of the instructor

Date	Topic for Today	Please Read for Today or Due Today:
8/19	Welcome and Introduction to the Class	
8/21	Basic Issues	Introduction, Appendix A, Module 4.1 (Genetics)
8/26	Basic...continued	
8/28	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 1
9/2	Nerve Cells...continued	
9/4	Synapses	Chapter 2
9/9	Synapses...continued	
9/11	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 3
9/16	Anatomy...continued	
9/18	Catch up, Review, and Surprise Day	
9/23	Exam 1 on Introduction, Chs 1, 2, 3, and module 4.1	
9/25	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Ch 4: Modules 4.2 and 4.3
9/30	Development...continued	
10/2	Movie Day - Vision	
10/7	Vision	Chapter 5
10/9	Vision...continued	
10/14	Vision/Movement	Chapter 7
10/16	Movement	
10/21	Movement...continued	
10/23	Online Activity Day – More Info to Follow	
10/28	Catch up and Review Day	
10/30	Exam 2 on Modules 4.2, 4.3 and Chapters 5, 7	
11/4	GUEST SPEAKER/EXTRA CREDIT	EC Questions for Dr. Garrison
11/6	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11
11/11	Emotions...continued	
11/13	Emotions/Start Learning and Memory	Chapter 12
11/18	Learning...continued	
11/20	Learning...continued	
11/25	No School – Thanksgiving Break	
11/27	No School – Thanksgiving Break	
12/2	Psychological Disorders	Modules 14.2, 14.3, and 14.4
12/4	Psychological...continued	
Tues 12/9 8-9:40 AM	Final Exam on Chapters 11, 12 and modules 14.2, 14.3, and 14.4	