



Advanced Biopsychology

PSYC 514-001 (3 credit hours), Spring 2026

Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m., Alumni Hall 0401

Contact Information

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I. Readings

Carlson, N. R. (2021). *Physiology of behavior* (13th ed). Pearson.

Other readings or handouts may be posted on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to read assigned materials prior to the class in which they are discussed.

II. Course Description

Welcome to Advanced Biopsychology. This course is a graduate-level examination of the nervous system, psychopharmacology, neurological disorders, and the physiological etiology of select psychological disorders.

III. Course Objectives

The following objectives are essential requirements to complete this course with a passing grade. They reflect what students are expected to learn and the ways they will show their understanding. Because these elements are central to the course's design and academic standards, they cannot be changed or completed in alternate formats without fundamentally altering the nature, rigor, and integrity of the course. Students will:

1. Acquire knowledge of the nervous system, psychopharmacology, neurological disorders, and the physiological etiology of select psychological disorders. This knowledge will be acquired through attending lectures, completing assigned readings, and engaging in independent self-study.
2. Demonstrate mastery of course content by completing all exams individually and without external aids, demonstrating retention, understanding, and application of course material.
3. Optionally (for a chance to earn extra credit), demonstrate knowledge of common psychotropic medications by completing a related quiz individually and without external aids.
4. Optionally (for a chance to earn extra credit), explore a biopsychology topic of personal interest that is not already covered in course material, and present a brief overview of this topic to the class.
5. Demonstrate professionalism by meeting all established deadlines and adhering to course policies, reflecting competencies that are essential for future academic and career success.

IV. Course-Specific Policies

Blackboard

We will use [Blackboard](#) as the online communication hub for our face-to-face class. Announcements, updates, grades, some readings, and other important information will be posted to Blackboard. Most assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. Students should check our Blackboard course shell daily throughout the semester.

Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (e.g., ChatGPT) to complete or produce content for course assignments and assessments is a violation of SIUE's academic policy, is prohibited, and will be treated as [academic misconduct](#) in this course. Using [Illinois State University's Seven Levels of Possible GenAI Usage](#), this is a Level 0 course: "Students will create their own, original work without the use of GenAI [in] any manner." Plagiarism and AI detection software may be used to analyze submitted work.

Class Attendance and Expectations

Students are responsible for knowing the attendance and absence policies for each of their classes. (See University Policy 119.) In this course, attendance is taken only on the first day. Even though daily attendance is not recorded, attending class regularly supports strong performance—exams focus heavily on lecture material, including examples and explanations not found in the textbook.

Students are expected to come to class ready to learn. This includes keeping phones and other devices put away (except a laptop or tablet used only for note taking) and staying alert and focused. (See the Classroom Distractions policy for more details.)

Participation is encouraged. Students are invited to ask questions, contribute to discussions, visit office hours, and email when clarification is needed.

During in-class exams, students must silence phones and clear their workspace of everything except pencils or pens unless instructed otherwise. Earbuds, earphones, and smartwatches must be removed and put away.

Recording (audio, video, or photos) of class sessions is not permitted. (See University Policies 1L15 and 3C1.)

Please be respectful and act professionally toward everyone in our class.

V. Assignments, Exams, and Grading

The nature or number of course assessments (e.g., assignments, exams) may be modified by the instructor at any time during the semester with prior notice. Any such modifications will apply uniformly to all students enrolled in the course.

Exams

Students will complete three non-cumulative exams. The majority of exam questions are in multiple-choice format (five answer choices of which one is correct). Approximately 25% of each exam's questions are in other formats (e.g., fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer).

Extra Credit Common Psychotropic Medications Quiz

Students have the option of completing a common psychotropic medications quiz on the date listed in the Course Schedule. Quiz questions are based on a psychotropic medications lecture given early in the semester. Information from the psychotropics lecture will not be tested on an exam, just the extra credit quiz. The quiz is 20 multiple-choice questions, each with four answer choices of which one is correct. Students can earn up to 10 extra credit points from the quiz.

Extra Credit Presentation

Students have the option of delivering a brief in-class presentation about a biopsychology-related topic of their choice on the dates listed in the Course Schedule. (Clinical students will present on one date; Clinical Child and School students will present on another date.) Students can earn up to 10 extra credit points for the presentation. A document describing the assignment is posted on Blackboard.

Grading

A student's grade is determined by the total number of points earned during the semester while completing the following course requirements:

1. 3 Exams (100 points each, 300 points total)
2. (Extra Credit) Common Psychotropic Medications Quiz (10 points)
3. (Extra Credit) Presentation (10 points)

There are 300 possible points.

Grades are determined by the following point ranges; percentages are listed for reference. Grades are not rounded or curved.

	Percentage	Points
A	100-90	300-269
B	89-80	268-239
C	79-70	238-209
D	69-60	208-179
F	59-0	178-0

A minimum of 269.00 points is required to earn an A, 239.00 to earn a B, 209.00 to earn a C, and 179.00 to earn a D.

VI. Course Schedule

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice.

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments/Exams
Week 1 1/14	Welcome, Attendance Introduction, Syllabus Common Psychotropic Medications	Syllabus Common Psychotropic Medications Notes (Blackboard)	
Week 2 1/21	Structure and Functions of Cells of the Nervous System	Ch. 2	
Week 3 1/28	Structure of the Nervous System	Ch. 3	
Week 4 2/4	Psychopharmacology and Neurotransmitters	Ch. 4	
Week 5 2/11	Catch up (up to 1 hour) Extra credit quiz on common psychotropic medications (up to 20 minutes) Review for Exam 1 (up to 30 minutes; bring questions) Clinical students extra credit presentation day (last hour of class)		Extra credit quiz on common psychotropic medications Clinical students extra credit presentation day
Week 6 2/18	Exam 1 (Ch. 2-4)		Exam 1 (Ch. 2-4)
Week 7 2/25	Control of Movement	Ch. 8	
Week 8 3/4	Sleep	Ch. 9	
Spring Break 3/11			

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments/Exams
Week 9 3/18	Emotion	Ch. 11	
Week 10 3/25	Learning and Memory Review for Exam 2 (up to 30 minutes, if time allows; bring questions)	Ch. 13	
Week 11 4/1	Exam 2 (Ch. 8, 9, 11, 13)		Exam 2 (Ch. 8, 9, 11, 13)
Week 12 4/8	Neurological Disorders	Ch. 16	
Week 13 4/15	Schizophrenia and Anxiety Disorders	Ch. 17	
Week 14 4/22	Stress and Anxiety Disorders	Ch. 18	
Week 15 4/29	Childhood Disorders Clinical child and school students extra credit presentation day (1 hour) Review for Exam 3 (up to 30 minutes, if time allows; bring questions)	Ch. 15 (ASD, ADHD)	Clinical child and school students extra credit presentation day
Week 16 5/6	Exam 3 (Ch. 15-18) Extra credit presentation make-up day (students with a documented and approved emergency on their assigned day will present after Exam 3)		Exam 3 (Ch. 15-18) Extra credit presentation make-up day

VII. General Policies

A. Department

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 <https://www.siu.edu/policies/table-of-contents/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.

The Psychology Department's 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 (<https://www.siu.edu/policies/table-of-contents/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. A plagiarism offense shall be reported to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs" (<https://www.siu.edu/policies/table-of-contents/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To ensure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the linked information on plagiarism.

B. Attendance

Absence Policy: Non-exam Days

Students who need to be absent on a non-exam day do not need to notify the instructor. When absent, students are responsible for the following:

- Review the syllabus, Course Schedule, and Blackboard for topics covered, readings, announcements, and assignments.
- Complete and submit all assignments by the posted deadlines. Absences do not extend assignment deadlines. Unless instructed otherwise, all work must be submitted through Blackboard.
- Obtain notes from a classmate for missed class sessions. The instructor does not provide notes beyond materials posted on Blackboard.
- Check with classmates regarding any in-class discussions or activities. Obtaining notes about discussions or activities from classmates is encouraged.

Absence Policy: Exam Days

Students who need to be absent on an exam day must notify the instructor by email and provide documentation for the absence. Documentation is required for a make-up request to be considered.

Requests may be approved if documentation is submitted:

- Before the exam for serious, pre-scheduled commitments (e.g., university-sponsored athletic events), or

- Within a reasonable timeframe after the exam for unanticipated emergencies (e.g., hospitalization). A reasonable timeframe is determined by the instructor and generally means within one week of the exam date.

Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Examples of acceptable documentation include, but are not limited to:

- Funeral notice
- Physician's note with dates of inability to attend class
- Hospital admission or discharge paperwork
- Military service documentation
- Jury duty notice or court subpoena
- Police report or towing/service receipt related to an automobile accident
- Documentation of participation in a university-sponsored extracurricular activity

Examples of unacceptable reasons for requesting a make-up exam include, but are not limited to:

- Vacation or other leisure travel
- Self-reported (i.e., undocumented) illness

If approved, a make-up exam will be scheduled no later than one week from the date approval is granted. If the exam is not completed within this timeframe, a score of zero will be assigned. Make-up exams cover the same material as the original exam but may contain different questions. All exams for face-to-face courses are completed in person on SIUE's campus; online exam options are not available.

Face-to-face Course Delivery Policy

This course is designed and approved for face-to-face instruction. The Department of Psychology's Policy on Individual Student Teaching Arrangements requires that courses be delivered in their approved modality and does not permit faculty to modify course modality for individual students: "All psychology faculty are required to provide the majority of instruction to all students enrolled in a course in the modality in which the course is designed to be taught (e.g., all courses designed as face-to-face courses must be taught in that manner). Psychology faculty may not modify the course modality for individual students enrolled in a course."

By remaining enrolled in this course, students acknowledge that:

- Instruction in this course is designed for in-person delivery only.
- Neither synchronous nor asynchronous virtual attendance options are available, regardless of reason or circumstance.
- Regular in-person attendance is essential to achieving the intended instructional experience.
- The imposition of virtual attendance options would significantly disrupt academic programming and fundamentally alter the nature, rigor, and integrity of the course.

Students who require an online learning format must enroll in a section of the course designated by the university as online-synchronous or online-asynchronous. Continued enrollment in this section indicates agreement with the face-to-face delivery format and attendance expectations.

First Class Meeting Attendance and Late Course Add Policy

The first class meeting of the semester includes a review of the syllabus and a discussion of course policies and requirements. An opportunity to ask questions about this information is provided. Because of the importance of this information, first-day attendance is required by SIUE. Students not physically in attendance for the first class meeting may be dropped from the course. Students who have a substantive reason for missing the first class should email the instructor prior to the first class to request they remain enrolled. Students who miss the first class meeting but remain enrolled are responsible for acquiring missed information from a classmate.

Students who enroll in the course after one or more class meetings have occurred are responsible for acquiring missed information and completing all assignments by deadlines. Late enrollment does not extend assignment deadlines. If a student enrolls after a deadline has passed, the related assignment(s) cannot be made up, and the student will receive a score of zero for such assignments.

Extended Absences Due to Serious Illness, Life Circumstances, Etc. Policy

Students who experience serious illness or significant life circumstances that require extended absences and prevent timely completion of coursework are encouraged to postpone enrollment until a semester in which they can participate fully and perform optimally. Students who remain enrolled acknowledge that all course policies apply in all circumstances. For additional information, students should consult the Department of Psychology Policy on Incomplete Grades and Withdrawal and be mindful of university withdrawal deadlines.

C. Accommodations

Statement on Disabilities

Students who need accommodations due to a medical diagnosis or major life impairment must register with Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process. ACCESS is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203, myaccess@siue.edu, 618-650-3726. Students approved for accommodations should discuss them with the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as they are issued.

Intermittent/Extended Absences Accommodation Policy

An intermittent/extended absences accommodation from ACCESS formally recognizes the possibility of consecutive or recurring absences. In this course, the accommodation **does not permit assignment submissions after posted deadlines**, as doing so would fundamentally alter the course curriculum and learning objectives. This accommodation serves as sufficient documentation to request a make-up exam. However, the instructor reserves the right to decline requests or require additional documentation (e.g., hospital admission paperwork) if more than one exam make-up is requested in a semester. Students who anticipate frequent absences are encouraged to postpone enrollment until a semester in which they can attend regularly and perform optimally. Students who receive this accommodation and are absent are responsible for the following:

- Review the syllabus, Course Schedule, and Blackboard for topics covered, assigned readings, announcements, and due dates. Students are also encouraged to check with a classmate for any missed in-class announcements.
- Complete and submit all assignments by posted deadlines. Absences do not extend assignment deadlines. Unless otherwise instructed, all work must be submitted through Blackboard.
- On exam days, notify the instructor by email and provide documentation in accordance with the Absence Policy: Exam Days.
- Obtain notes from a classmate for missed class sessions. The instructor does not provide notes beyond materials posted on Blackboard.
- Recognize that in-class discussions and activities cannot be replicated. Unless otherwise stated in this syllabus, participation or attendance points awarded during an absence cannot be earned or made up. Obtaining notes from classmates is encouraged.
- Remember that virtual attendance is not available for this face-to-face course (see the Face-to-Face Course Delivery Policy).

Completion of an ACCESS Extended/Intermittent Absence Form is not required for this course. The terms outlined in this section constitute the governing agreement for this accommodation. If ACCESS requests the completion of an ACCESS Extended/Intermittent Absence Form for this course, the language in the current-semester syllabus shall prevail and supersede any conflicting provisions.

Testing Accommodations/Extended Time Policy

Some students may be approved by ACCESS for an alternative testing environment and/or extended testing time. Exams using these accommodations are typically completed in the ACCESS Testing Center. Students approved for testing accommodations are responsible for following both ACCESS and instructor procedures in order to use the accommodation. Failure to follow these procedures may create an undue administrative burden that can limit or prevent the timely implementation of the accommodation. Students who plan to use testing accommodations are responsible for the following:

- Submit a Testing Center request to ACCESS through the Accommodate Portal by 4:30 p.m. at least three working/business days prior to the in-class exam date (e.g., by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday for an exam scheduled the following Monday). Requests submitted after this deadline may be declined by ACCESS or the instructor.
- Schedule the exam for the same calendar day the exam is administered in class. Requests to test on a different day may be declined.

For convenience, students may submit Testing Center requests for all exams beginning on the first day of the semester. If a Testing Center request is declined because it is submitted late or requests a different testing day, the student will take the exam at the scheduled time and location with the rest of the class.

D. Behavior

Email Etiquette

Professional email communication helps ensure timely, meaningful responses. When emailing the instructor, please include the following:

- A professional greeting (e.g., “Hi Dr. Murphy,” “Prof. Murphy,” or “Dear Dr. Murphy”)

- Course and section number (e.g., PSYC 111-001; Psychopathology, Section 3)
- Specific question(s) not already addressed in course documents
- Your name (first and last name in an initial email; at least your first name in follow-up messages)

Messages that include this information typically receive a response within one business day. If you haven't received a reply after two business days, please review your message for the above elements, make any needed revisions, and resend it.

No Rounding or Individualized Extra Credit

Final letter grades are determined solely by the total points earned and the grading scale listed in the syllabus. At times, the instructor may offer extra credit opportunities to the entire class. These opportunities are optional and may be limited by logistical or scheduling constraints. Individualized extra credit is not offered. Please do not request grade rounding or individualized extra credit.

Use Firefox or Chrome to Complete Coursework on Blackboard

Please use [Firefox](#) or [Chrome](#) on a desktop or laptop computer and visit <https://bb.siue.edu> to complete all Blackboard work. Do not use the downloadable Blackboard app, Safari browser, or a cell phone or tablet. These may improperly display or submit assignments. If you have tech questions, please [ask ITS](#) before beginning Blackboard work. Assignments that are missing, incomplete, or submitted incorrectly due to unsupported technology will be graded as submitted, which may result in a score of zero.

Classroom Distractions

Students are entitled to a learning environment free from substantial distractions that interfere with their ability to engage with course content, including distractions from fellow students. The instructor may address disruptive behavior through informal corrective feedback, which may occur in front of the class. Students who wish to avoid such interactions are encouraged to be mindful of their behavior. Repeated or severe disruptions may be referred to the Department Chair or the Office of Student Conduct.

Personal Disclosures Policy

Students are encouraged to avoid sharing personal or sensitive information (e.g., health-related details) during class discussions. If personal experiences are shared, statements should be anonymized (e.g., "a person," "a student," "an individual") rather than using identifying names or relationships. Please note that classroom discussions are not confidential. The instructor may use de-identified clinical examples for instructional purposes, consistent with the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, which permits the use of de-identified cases for teaching.

Following Course Instructions

Students are responsible for knowing and following all instructions in this syllabus and any reasonable written or verbal instructions provided by the instructor. University policy expects students to know and follow syllabus instructions (Student Academic Code, Policy 3C2, Section C2) and requires students to

comply with reasonable directions given by faculty acting in good faith (Student Code of Conduct, Policy 3C1, Section 2.F – Failure to Comply). Failure to do so may result in academic or conduct-related consequences, including but not limited to instructor-imposed consequences and formal reporting to the Department Chair, Office of the Provost, or Office of Student Conduct.