

PSY 853: Biological Bases of Behavior
Fridays 8:30 – 11:00 AM in Cammack 027 (CRN 13255)
Fall 2015 Syllabus
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Office Hours:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30 PM (*no appointment needed*)
- Wednesdays 11:00 AM – noon (*no appointment needed*)
- Please make an appointment for other days & times

Course Description

A survey of the principles, research and methodology of psychophysiology, including consideration of the autonomic correlates of emotion and arousal, biofeedback, psychosomatic diseases, and psychophysiological correlates of psychopathology.

Prerequisite: graduate status in Psychology or instructor approval.

Important Dates: Please see the Colonel Compass (<http://colonelscompass.eku.edu/>) for information related to dates for the start and end of the semester, add/drop, withdrawing from the course, holidays, and final exam times.

Required Texts & Readings:

- Kolb, B., & Whishaw, I.Q. (2015). *Fundamentals of human neuropsychology* (7th Ed.). New York: Mac Higher. ISBN: 9781429282956.
- Bezchlibnyk-Butler, K.Z., Jeffries, J.J., Procyshyn, R.M., & Virani, A.S. (2015). *Clinical handbook of psychotropic drugs* (21st Ed.). Ashland, OH: Hogrefe & Huber Publishers, ISBN: 9780889374744.
- *Additional readings will be made available as needed.*

Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will identify and comprehend key terms and structures critical to understanding foundational concepts, theories, and methods in Biopsychology. This objective will be accessed via reading quizzes and exams.
2. Students will explore and critically evaluate relationships between basic physiological mechanisms, mental processes, and behavioral outcomes. This objective will be accessed via exams and critical thinking assignments.
3. Students will develop the capacity to comprehend and evaluate scientific studies in Biopsychology. This objective will be assessed via article readings assessed through reading quizzes and the critical thinking assignments.
4. Students will evaluate commonly used drugs in the treatment of psychological disorders in terms of their effects, value, and limitations. This objective will be accessed via a critical thinking writing assignment that will require the organization of information relating to a specific psychotropic drug.
5. Students will compare normal neurological processes with patterns of dysfunction to recognize the brain bases of mental and behavioral disorders. This objective will be accessed via reading quizzes, exams, and a critical thinking assignment focused on the brain bases of a specific psychological disorder.

Technology Requirements:

In order to participate in this class, you will need access to a computer on campus, or use a computer off campus with a broadband or DSL internet connection. Dial-up will not function well. The following list of programs will be needed, so install them if you do not already have them:

- Install the internet browser *Firefox* at <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ie.html>
 - Black Board has problems with the *Internet Explorer* browser, especially when completing and submitting quizzes and exams. So use *Firefox* instead of *Internet Explorer*. The *Safari* internet browser does not work well, so don't use it either.
- If you do not have *Microsoft Word*, then install the free viewer at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=3657ce88-7cfa-457a-9aec-f4f827f20cac&displaylang=en> .

Evaluation of Performance

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| 1. Reading Quizzes (10 points each, 10 total after lowest 1 dropped) | 100 points |
| 2. Exams (100 points each, 2 total) | 200 points |
| 3. Critical Thinking Assignments (60 points each, 2 total) | 120 points |

Total points possible 420 Points

Grading Scale

Your course grade will be based on a standard grading scale with 90 – 100 % = A, 80 – 89 % = B, 70 – 79 % = C, 60 – 69 % = D, & 59 % and below = F. Thus, the point cutoff is 378 points for an A, 336 points for a B, 294 points for a C, and 252 points for a D.

Reading Quizzes

The effectiveness of your reading will be evaluated via reading quizzes that will be taken and graded at the beginning of class. On the first day of class, you will create a secret identity that is only known to you and Dr. Lawson. This “codename” will be used with quizzes to keep your identity secret since the quizzes will be graded in class. You can change your codename anytime by providing written notification to Dr. Lawson.

Quizzes can include multiple choice, True-false, and matching items totaling 10 points. Some quizzes may also contain a bonus question. You will be provided with a reading guide for each set of readings 1 week before the corresponding quiz. No makeup quizzes will be allowed after the quiz has been given to the regular quiz, but the lowest 1 quiz will be dropped so you can miss 1 quiz without penalty.

Exams

There will be two exams in this class (100 points each). All exams are held in class and are closed book/notes. Exam questions can include multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay formats. Possible short answer and essay questions along with a list of terms and concepts covered in multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions will be provided one week prior to the exam.

Critical Thinking in Biopsychology Assignments

Two critical thinking in biopsychology assignments worth 60 points each will be due during the semester. The specific assignments and guidelines will be provided to you about 2 weeks in advance of its due date. Unless specified otherwise, all written products must adhere to APA format, including cover and reference pages, be word processed with 12 point Times New Roman font, left justified, appropriate spacing, and have one inch margins. Also note that **quoting is not acceptable** and will result in a significant penalty. Paraphrase instead of quoting other’s work and ideas, and cite sources appropriately.

Each assignment will be graded on a) completeness, b) biopsychological focus, c) critical and creative thinking, d) clarity & logical flow of concepts/ideas, e) scientific tone, f) adherence to APA style & format requirements, g) grammar & spelling errors, and h) paraphrasing instead of quoting. Note that plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing score for the assignment and a failing course grade. This means that you must clearly distinguish other's ideas and concepts (i.e., cite their work) from your own.

Provide copies of all required references with your assignment.

Make-up Exams & Deadlines:

- Since the lowest 1 quiz is dropped, no makeup quizzes will be allowed after the regularly scheduled quiz is given. So being 5 minutes late for class will result in missing the quiz. If you must be absent because of an academic conflict, you will be allowed to take the quiz early. This early quiz may be different from the one given during the regular class.
- Being absent from class or missing exams/deadlines **WILL ONLY BE EXCUSED** with legitimate documentation that verifies a valid illness, emergency or conflicting school function **AND** meeting with me out of class to discuss material missed. In some cases, multiple meetings may be required.
- Make-up exams are typically different from that that given in class, and are not recommended. Non-excused make-up exams will be penalized by 10% of the points possible. Unless extraordinary circumstances exist, **make-up exams will be given up to a week following the exam at the convenience of the instructor.**
- Late unexcused papers will be penalized by 10 % of the points possible.
- General Note: **Emailed papers/assignments will not be accepted** unless pre-approved by the professor. Turn in assignments via BlackBoard or in person.

Attendance & Penalties for Absence from Class & Tardiness:

Being present for the entire class and actively attending to and participating in class activities cannot be substituted by outside readings or other out of class materials. This class also covers material at a fast pace and the class lectures are designed to include many video and interactive demonstrations. Therefore, your attendance is mandatory. It is imperative that you a) make every effort to attend class each week on time & b) you are an active learner for the entire class period

- If you miss 4 or more classes, your course grade will be dropped by 2 letter grades. The only exception to this penalty is for students who have a major medical situation, and in such cases it is expected that the student will take an incomplete grade for the course and finish missed work the following semester.
- Excessive tardiness or leaving early (more than 2 occurrences) will count as one or more unexcused absences.

Student Conduct

All students are expected to arrive to class on time, complete assignments before the class it is due, and act in a mature and respectful manner towards myself and fellow students. Pay particular attention to the following terms of appropriate conduct:

- It is understandable that students will discuss course material out of class. It is not acceptable, however, to complete reading assignments, assignments, exams, etc. with other students. All items turned in to the professor must reflect work by you alone, and any deviation from this policy will constitute cheating. Any incidence of cheating will result in failing the assignment and likely course, along with notifying your graduate program director, department head and dean.
- If you find yourself having difficulty with the material or an assignment, then it is your responsibility to visit me in person to work out this problem. It is not appropriate for another student to inform me of your problem, nor is it appropriate for you to visit me on others' behalf without them being present.

- Communicating via email or phone is not an appropriate manner of discussing course material. Visit me during my office hours or make an appointment to visit me in person.
- Turn in all assignments via BlackBoard or to me in person. Thus emailing assignments/papers to me is not appropriate and will not be accepted. If preapproved, items may be accepted via my campus mailbox.

Academic Integrity: Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.eku.edu . Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Students with Disabilities: A student with a "disability" may be an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, seeing or hearing. Additionally, pregnancy or a related medical condition that causes a similar substantial limitation may also be considered a disability under the ADA.

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the office in the Whitlock Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in alternative format.

Writing Quality: Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments. If you would like free help with your writing, you may visit the Noel Studio, in the Library: The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is a free resource for the EKU community, including graduate and undergraduate students. At the Noel Studio, a trained consultant will work you or your small group on any piece of written or oral communication, at any stage in the process from brainstorming to finished product. Consultants can also help you develop effective research strategies. For more information, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.eku.edu/> or call 859-622-6229.

If at any time you find yourself doing poorly in this course, visit me during office hours or schedule a meeting with me as soon as possible.

Course Schedule for PSY 853, CRN 13255, Dr. Lawson

Class	Topic	Required Readings	Quizzes/Assignments
8/28	Introduction		
9/04	Brain Structure & Sheep Brain Dissection	K & W: Chp. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 1
9/11	Neurons & Glial Functions	K & W: Chp. 4 K & W: Chp. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 2
9/18	Synaptic Communication, Drug Actions, & Addiction	K & W: Chp. 5 cont. K & W: Chp. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 3 Paper 1 Assigned
9/25	<i>(assurance of learning day for faculty, no class)</i>		
10/2	Exploring Specific Drug Effects	<i>Bring to class your Clinical Handbook of Psychotropic Drugs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 4
10/9	Research Methods	K & W: Chp. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 5
10/16	Research Methods cont.& Development	K & W: Chp. 23 <i>Article TBA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 1 Due by Oct 12 In-class Quiz 6
10/23	Exam 1		
10/30	Learning, Memory, & Spatial/Math	K & W: Chp. 18 <i>Article TBA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 7
11/6	Language	K & W: Chp. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 8
11/13	Emotion and Attention	K & W: Chp. 20 K & W: Chp. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 9 Paper 2 Assigned
11/20	Developmental Disorders	K & W: Chp. 24 <i>Article TBA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 10
11/27	<i>THANKSGIVING BREAK (no class)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 2 due with reference copies by 11/25
12/04	Psychiatric Disorders & Neurological Assessment	K & W: Chp. 27 K & W: Chp. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class Quiz 11
Exam 2 (Final) will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 8:00 – 10:00 AM in Cammack 027.			

Dr. Lawson reserves the right to modify the topic scope & readings as needed.