

FALL 2014

BIOPSYCHOLOGY (Psy 4306)

Professor: Dr. Andrea Lynn Powers

Required text: Biological Psychology (11th edition), by James Kalat. ISBN: 13 9781111 831004.

Course description and objectives:

Biopsychology is probably the most difficult psychology course. Psychology, as a discipline, has its roots in philosophy and physiology, and knowledge of the brain and nervous system is fundamental in understanding any behavior.

In this course, you will study the brain in great detail. At the end of the semester, you will know how neurons communicate, which brain areas are involved in specific functions, how our biochemicals (neurotransmitters and hormones) affect everything we do, think, and feel, and how your brain controls sleep, learning and development. This knowledge will contribute to your understanding of the mind/body connection and aid your ability to assess the role of the brain in human health and disorders.

Readings and exams: You will be reading and learning information from about one chapter every week. Exams will be given every other Friday. How you perform on exams will be totally dependent on how much time you devote to memorizing the information in the text. Exam dates will be as follows: 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, and 12/5. Exams will be available from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. and you will have no longer than 50 minutes to complete each one. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice items, and be worth a possible 100 points.

Research summaries: For this assignment, you should summarize a research article related to this course from the Mind and Brain section of the web site, Science Daily. The summary should be 3 pages, double-spaced, size 12 font, and must be written in YOUR words, not the author's. This is extremely important; if I find that you have used the exact words of the author(s), you will receive a zero. Due dates for these summaries will be as follows: 9/12, 10/10, 11/07. You will have 2 days during which you may submit your summaries beginning 7:00 A.M. the day before the due date until 11:00 P.M. on the day it is due.

Precise instructions can be found under Library Resource. Note that you will be required to do 3 3-page summaries instead of a final paper. You will not be able to make them up if you do not submit them when due. Each summary is worth a possible 25 points, and must be submitted correctly through Blackboard, along with a direct link to your article. Assignments submitted incorrectly or sent to my e-mail address will not be graded. Learn ahead of time exactly how to do this. On the due date, you will find where to submit this assignment.

Grades: For every exam and summary, you will receive points and will not have a letter grade until the end of the semester. The total points available are as follows:

Exams        700

Summaries    75

Total        775

To receive an A, you must have at least 659 points (85% of the total points available). For a B, you must have at least 581 points (75% of the total points available). For a C, you must have at least 504 points (65%), and for a D, you must have at least 426 points (55% of the total points available).

**DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE:** If you are not very motivated, disciplined, and planning to work hard to do well, this course is not for you. You must spend many hours reading and memorizing the information in your text to score high on exams, and must plan ahead to be sure you are submitting the research summaries correctly and on time.

**ASSISTANTS FOR THIS COURSE:** Joe Renieri is available to help you if you have any problems using Blackboard, accessing exams or submitting assignments. If you need assistance, call him immediately at extension 8489 or e-mail him at [rrenieri@sulross.edu](mailto:rrenieri@sulross.edu). Librarian Jacob Galindo is available if you have problems learning how to submit your summaries. You can reach him at extension 8414 or see him in his office (109) in the library.