

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

BIOPSYCHOLOGY (Psy 4306)

Professor: Dr. Andrea Lynn Powers

Required text: *Biological Psychology (12th edition)*, by James Kalat. ISBN: 978 1305 105409.

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. This is the introductory biopsychology course and you will need to spend a great deal of time memorizing information you have never even heard of, especially in the first 4 chapters where you will learn about the electrical and chemical activity of the brain.

So, 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, movement, emotions, learning, memory 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 1 chapter every week. Exams will be given every other Thursday. 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: 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, and 12/3. 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. Questions will be randomly selected from the publisher's test bank, so no 2 students will receive the same exam. Blockquote

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. About 3/4 of this written assignment should be a summary of the research report and about 1/4 should be related information from your textbook. Do not include your personal thoughts and experiences. Due dates for these summaries will be as follows: 9/17, 10/15, 11/012, and 11/24. 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 Resources. Note that you will be required to do 4 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. You may call Sandra Bogus (432 837-8523) for help, if needed. Submit your summary and provide a working link to your article exactly as shown under Library Resources, so I may read the article. 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	100
Total	800

To receive an A, you must have at least 680 points (85% of the total points available). For a B, you must have at least 600 points (75% of the total points available). For a C, you must have at least 520 points (65%), and for a D, you must have at least 440 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.

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT: Students enrolled in distance education course have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as describes in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course.