Psychology 355 - Biological Psychology – Section A
Spring 2012
Dr. John P. Galla

Office: LC 137B
Office Hours: M 1-2 PM, T 8-8:50 AM, W 1-1:50 PM, F 8-8:50 AM

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HOW TO CONTACT ME

OFFICE: My office is in Kapelski Learning Center, room 137B.

HOURS: My office hours for spring 2012 are M 1-3, T 8-8:50 AM, W 1-1:50 PM and F 8-8:50 AM.

PHONE: You may call me at (610) 499-4371. If I am not in my office, leave a voice message that includes your name, number, the times I can reach you, and the reason for your call. I do not discuss grades over the telephone.

EMAIL: You may also email me at **jpgalla@mail.widener.edu**. However, due to the burden of unsolicited email, and of destructive viruses carried in email, *I will only respond to your email if your name, and course number and section appear in the subject line (e.g., Name, Psy 355, Section A).* Email without this information will be erased without being opened. I do not discuss grades via email.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Time/Place: MWF 11:00 – 11:50 AM, LC 118
Text: Kalat, J. W. (2009). Biological Psychology (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Cengage. ISBN 0495603007
Study Site: Companion study site

COURSE POLICIES (note: All course policies are consistent with the University Academic Regulations)

Attendance: You are allowed six absences (twice the number of weekly class meetings), provided they do not occur on the day of a scheduled exam. Allowed absences are provided so that you won't be penalized for the occasional "doctor's appointment" or "away game." However, I reserve the right to reduce your grade by 5 percentage points for each absence beyond six.

Arriving Late: I expect you to be on time for class. If you do find yourself late for class I ask that you enter the classroom in an unobtrusive manner and find the nearest available seat. I reserve the right to reduce your grade by 5 percentage points for each late arrival beyond three (i.e., if you are habitually late).

Recording: Recording lectures is generally prohibited. A student with special needs may be allowed to record lectures if 1) official documentation regarding the special need is presented and 2) a standard contract is signed regarding the use and disposition of the recordings.

Electronics: Electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, IPods, IPads/tablets, laptop computers, and all other Bluetooth/wireless devices), must be turned ***off*** during the class period. The campus alert system is installed on the classroom computer in case there is a campus emergency. I will deduct 5 percentage points from your final grade for any violation of this policy. This includes texting! Violation of this policy for any reason during an exam will be considered evidence of cheating and you will be dropped from the course with an F for academic fraud. No exceptions.

Cheating: Although I have never had a cheating incident in Biological Psychology, we will adhere to the cheating policy that appears in the University Academic Regulations of the 2011-2012 Widener University Bulletin. *Please note that use of an electronic device (e.g., cell phone) during an exam will be considered evidence of cheating.*

Assignments: Reading assignments appear on the course outline. You should read the assigned chapters and be prepared to discuss them in class. Although you are responsible for all material in the assigned chapters we will not cover everything found in the chapters in class. Moreover, information not found in the text will be presented during lecture and discussion. In addition, Cengage Publications has a companion study site that contains a number of learning aids including practice multiple choice and true/false quizzes.

Exams: There will be 4 exams and an optional final (for those who qualify). Exams will be based on information from lecture and the text. The four exams will be averaged together to arrive at your final grade (i.e. each regular exam is worth 25% of the final grade). If after completing all 4 exams you have an average not less than 55 and not more than 59, you may, at your option, take a cumulative essay final. If you earn at least 70 points (out of 100) on the cumulative final, you will receive a D for the course.

I expect you to take each exam on the scheduled date. I have tentatively scheduled exams for Friday, February 3; Friday, March 2; Wednesday, April 4; and Friday, April 20. If you miss an exam on a scheduled exam date, you will have to take a make-up exam. All make-up exams will be given on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 (the last day of classes). Make-up exam are usually essay format. Anyone taking an exam in the Academic Support Services office must provide proper documentation at least 2 weeks prior to the exam.

GRADES: Letter grades will be assigned as indicated in the table below. Please understand what this table means. If your final average is a minimum of 93 you earn an A, below 93 you do not earn an A. If your average is 80 you earn a B-, below 80 you do not earn a B-, and so forth. I do not round up to the next highest grade.

A	=	93% or above
A-	=	from 90 to anything below 93
B+	=	87-below 90
B	=	83-below 87
B-	=	80-below 83
C+	=	77-below 80
C	=	73-below 77
C-	=	70-below 73
D+	=	67-below 70
D	=	60-below 67
F	=	Below 60%

Psychology 355 - Course Outline, Spring 2012 Semester

Dates	Topic	Chapter Outlines
M 1/9 through W 2/1 *Note: We do not have class on M 1/16 but we will have class on T 1/17*	Outline 1. Introduction to Major Issues Outline 2. Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses Outline 3. Synapses	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3
F 2/3	Exam 1: Chapters 1-3	
M 2/6 through W 2/29	Outline 4. Anatomy of the Nervous System Outline 5. Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
F 3/2	Exam 2: Chapters 4-5	
M 3/5 though F3/9	No Classes - Mid-term Break	
M 3/12 through F 4/2	Outline 6. Vision Outline 7. The Other Sensory Systems (audition only). Outline 9. Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Chapter 9
W 4/4	Exam 3: Chapters 6, 7, 9	
F 4/6	No Class – Spring Holiday	
M 4/9 through W 4/18	Outline 15. Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Chapter 15
F 4/20	Exam 4: Chapter15	
M 4/23 through 4/25	Last week of classes. Make up days for any missed exams.	