

Psychology 355 - Biological Psychology – Sections A
Fall 2009
Dr. John P. Galla

Office: LC 137B

Office Hours:

M 1-3:50 PM, W 1-2:00 PM, F 8-8:50 AM

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HOW TO CONTACT ME

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

OFFICE HOURS: My office hours for fall 2009 are M 1-3:50, W 1-2:00 PM and F 8-8:50 AM. You may meet with me at other times if you make an appointment.

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 where I can reach you, 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 the number and section of your course appear in the subject line (e.g., Your 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

Companion Web Site:

<http://www.cengage.com/psychology/kalat>

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: You are allowed six absences, (provided they do not occur on the day of a scheduled exam). These 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 recorded lectures.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones, iPods, pagers, laptop computers, Bluetooth or wireless devices must be turned **off** during the class period. I subscribe to the campus alert system and my own cell phone will remain on during class in case of an emergency. I will deduct 5 percentage points from your final grade for any violation of this policy. This includes texting! Please note that 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. Sorry - no exceptions.

Cheating: Although I have never had a cheating incident in this course, we will adhere to the cheating policy which appears in the 2009-2010 Student Handbook, Undergraduate, Day Session. Please note that use of an electronic device (e.g., cell phone) during an exam will be considered evidence of cheating and you will be dropped from the course with an F for academic fraud.

Assignments: Reading assignments appear on the course outline. You are to read the assigned chapters and to 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, September 25; Friday, October 16; Friday, November 6; and Wednesday, December 9. 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 Friday, December 11, 2009 (the last day of classes).

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, Fall 2009 Semester

Dates	Topic	Chapter Outlines
F 9/4 through W 9/23	Outline 1. Introduction to Major Issues Outline 2. Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses Outline 3. Synapses	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3
F 9/25	Exam 1: Chapters 1-3	
M 28 through W 10/14	Outline 4. Anatomy of the Nervous System Outline 5. Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
F 10/16	Exam 2: Chapters 4-5	
M 10/19 through W 11/4	Outline 6. Vision Outline 7. The Other Sensory Systems (audition only).	Chapters 6 Chapter 7
F 11/6	Exam 3: Chapters 6-7	
M 11/9 through M 12/7	Outline 9. Wakefulness and Sleep Outline 15. Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Chapters 9 Chapter 15
W 12/9	Exam 4: Chapters 9 & 15	
F 12/11	Last day of classes. Make up day for any missed exams.	