

PSYC 415 -- HUMAN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
Section 01 -- Fall 2011 -- MWF 9:30-10:20 -- CSCC 204
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY -- Dr. King

Catalog Description: An in-depth examination of the role of the brain and nervous system in human behavior and psychological disorders. Consideration of the consequences of brain damage and disease in human patients are the focus of the course, but conditions such as depression and anxiety in which there is no obvious brain pathology are also discussed. Prerequisite is Psyc 101.

Required Textbook: Neil R. Carlson (2010). *Physiology of Behavior* (10th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-66627-2.

Attendance Policy: Grading in this class is not based upon participation or effort, but only upon performance on the exams. Therefore, there is no attendance requirement, other than the following. Attendance is absolutely required on exam days. No make-up exams will be given *for any reason*. Dates for exams will be announced well in advance in class. If you miss one or two, the comprehensive final is your make-up exam. (See Tests and Grading policy below.) If you do attend class, which is strongly suggested, *please do not bring children or pets with you*, and please be considerate about cell phones and other noise-making devices.

Tests and Grading: Grades in this class will be based on four 50-point semester exams and a 100-point comprehensive final exam. Dates for these exams will be announced well in advance in class and posted at the website for the course. All exams will be multiple choice, true/false, matching in format. If after taking all four semester exams, you are satisfied with your grade, *you do not need to take the final exam*. If you have taken all four semester exams and want to try to improve your grade, you may take the final, and it will replace one or two low exam scores. In this instance, the final cannot hurt you. If it is your lowest grade, it will be dropped. If you miss one or two semester exams, you must take the final exam, and it will serve as the make-up exam. If you miss more than two semester exams, you should drop the course, as the final is unlikely to help you.

Final grades will be based on a total of 200 points. No extra credit of any kind is available and there are no points for effort or participation. Final grades will be based on the following scale: 180-200 A, 170-179 B+, 160-169 B, 150-159 C+, 140-149 C, 130-139 D+, 120-129 D, 0-119 F. This is a 90% A, 80% B, 70% C, 60% D scale. There will be no curve. There will be no incompletes.

Dropping the Course: There are no circumstances under which you will be automatically dropped from the course roll. If you decide not to complete the course requirements, *you must file an add-drop form with the registrar* (see your advisor). Otherwise, you will receive a grade of F. The last day to withdraw from the course with a grade of W is Friday, October 28th at 5 PM. Thereafter, a grade of WF will be assigned (by the registrar) to those who drop.

Notice to Seniors: If you are planning to graduate in December, you must file an application to graduate (and, of course, there is also a fee that must be paid). Please see your advisor ASAP to do a graduation check. After that you must schedule an appointment with the department chair. All graduation applications must be in the Dean's office by Friday, September 9th. (Otherwise, you may find yourself graduating in May!)

Office and Office Hours: My office is CSCC 160E. My office hours this semester are MWF 10:30-12:30, TTh 11:15-12:30. Other hours are available by appointment. It's not easy to reach me by phone, and I do not return calls. My e-mail address is kingw(at)coastal(dot)edu. If you send an e-mail,

please include a subject line and tell me your name! I automatically delete e-mails without a subject line without looking at them!

Web Site: There is a website to support this course. Go to ww2.coastal.edu/kingw and click on the link to PSYC 415. DO NOT go to Blackboard. I'm not there.

Course Outline: The following list of topics is tentative and may be modified if time appears to be a problem. All such modifications will be announced in class and posted at the website. The readings listed in the right column are from the Carlson textbook. There will sometimes be material presented in class that is not in the textbook, and I will also show several videos during the semester. You are responsible for that material as well.

topic	reading
Introduction (Chapter 1)	pgs. 1-14
Cells of the Nervous System (Chapter 2)	pgs. 29-43 (half page)
Structure of the Nervous System (Chapter 3)	entire chapter
video - Coma: The Silent Epidemic	
EXAM 1 - Date to be announced.	
Methods and Strategies of Research (Chapter 5)	pgs. 147-149, 151-155, 165-166
Neurological Disorders (Chapter 15)	entire chapter
video - The Brain Eater	
EXAM 2 - Date to be announced.	
Control of Movement (Chapter 8)	pgs. 268-293
video - The Case of the Frozen Addicts	
EXAM 3 - Date to be announced.	
Schizophrenia and the Affective Disorders (Chapter 16)	entire chapter
Anxiety Disorders, Autism, ADHD (Chapter 17)	pgs. 586-600
Drug Abuse (Chapter 18) if time permits	entire chapter
EXAM 4 - Monday, December 5th	

FINAL EXAM -- Monday, December 12th, 11:00 AM

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the basic principles behind brain function and dysfunction. The course will prepare students to: 1) understand how neuroscientists think about human behavior; 2) understand how the living human brain is visualized and investigated; 3) understand the nature and causes of neurological disorders; 4) understand and differentiate between disorders that are neurological and those that are "psychological."

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, you should know: 1) what kinds of cells exist in the nervous system and their structure and function; 2) the gross anatomy of the human nervous system; 3) what CT, PET, and MRI scans are, what can be learned from them, and when one is better than another; 4) the kinds and causes of neurological disorders; 5) how we control our bodies and what disorders cause problems with that; 6) the controversies that exist over "psychological" disorders such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, autism, and ADHD.