

PSYC 460 -- PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
Section 01 -- Spring 2011 -- MWF 11:30-12:20 -- CSCC 204
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY -- Dr. King

Catalog Description: A survey of the relationships between the nervous system and behavior. Topics include basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, signaling and information processing in the nervous system, psychopharmacology, and selected behavioral topics such as biological rhythms, hunger, thirst, learning and memory. Prerequisite is Psyc 101 (etc.).

Required Textbook: Neil R. Carlson (2010). *Physiology of Behavior* (10th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 0205-66627-2.

Attendance Policy: Grading in the class is not based upon attendance, participation, or effort, but only upon performance on the weekly quizzes. While students are strongly encouraged to attend every class, *attendance is required* only on quiz days. No make-up quizzes will be given for any reason. If you do decide to attend class, *please do not bring children or pets with you.*

Tests and Grading: Grades in this class will be based entirely on weekly quizzes and a comprehensive final exam. Quizzes will be given every Monday during the first 10-15 minutes of class beginning January 24th. Don't be late as no provision will be made for latecomers. The quizzes will be 20 questions in length, and there will be 13 quizzes altogether. You must take at least 10 of these. If you take all 13, the lowest 3 scores will be dropped. A missed quiz will count as one of your drops.

The comprehensive final exam will consist of 100 questions taken off the quizzes. *You must take the final exam.* The final exam is scheduled for Friday, April 29th, at 11 AM. The final exam score will be divided in half before being added into your point total. (That makes the final worth 20% of the course grade.)

Final grades are based on a total of 250 points. No extra credit of any kind is available and there are no points for effort or attendance. Final grades will be based on the following scale: 225-250 A, 215-224 B+, 200-214 B, 190-199 C+, 175-189 C, 165-174 D+, 150-164 D, 0-149 F. There will be no curve.

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 Thursday, March 24th. Thereafter, a grade of WF will be assigned (by the registrar) to those who drop.

Note to Seniors: If you are planning to graduate in May, 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. Dr. Hills wants to see graduating seniors no later than Friday, January 28th. (Otherwise, you may find yourself graduating in December!)

Office and Office Hours: My office is CSCC 160E. My office hours this semester are MWF 8-9:25, TTh 9-11:15. 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 this course. 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 and should be considered *assigned readings*. There will occasionally be material presented in class that is not in the textbook. Likewise, there may be material in the textbook that I don't have time to cover during the lectures.

topic	reading
Structure and Function of Cells of the Nervous System	Chapter 2
Structure of the Nervous System (neuroanatomy)	Chapter 3
Psychopharmacology (drugs and behavior)	Chapter 4
Methods and Strategies of Research	Chapter 5
Sleep and Biological Rhythms	Chapter 9
Ingestive Behavior (hunger and thirst)	Chapter 12
Learning and Memory	Chapter 13

FINAL EXAM -- Friday, April 29th, 11:00 AM

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the basic principles behind brain function and its relationship to cognition and behavior. The course will prepare students to: 1) understand how psychologists think about behavior from a biological/physiological perspective; 2) understand the structure and chemistry of the brain; 3) understand the relationship between brain function and behavioral states such as sleep, eating, and drinking; 4) understand how the brain is changed by experience.

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 nervous system; 3) what chemicals serve as neurotransmitters in the brain and how those are influenced by drugs; 4) current research on the causes and functions of sleep; 5) how the brain regulates hunger, eating, thirst, and drinking; 6) how memories are formed in the brain.