Introduction to Physiological Psychology/Biological Psychology
UCSD Department of Psychology
Psychology 106 (4 credit units)
M/W 2:00 to 4:50
WLH 2205

Professor:
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Office hours: Mondays 5-6

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Course website:
http://gormanlab.ucsd.edu/courses/psyc106.html
Important announcements, schedule, links to readings, slides, etc are all available here. PLEASE CHECK REGULARLY.

Course Description:
This course surveys the field of *Physiological/Biological Psychology*, an area of study concerned with physiological and evolutionary explanations of perception, cognition, and behavior. Because these functions depend on the nervous system, a major focus of the course will be on the structure and function of the brain with an emphasis on brain-behavior relations. Topics will include: evolutionary perspectives on brain and behavior, anatomy and development of the brain, neural signaling (neurotransmitters, drugs, hormones), and neural mechanisms of sensory processing, motor control (movement, action), motivated behavior (feeding, drinking), emotion, and learning and memory.

Required Texts:
Biological Psychology (11th Ed.) James W. Kalat, available at the bookstore
Supplemental readings and materials will be posted on the TED website
Optional Resources:
Study Guide for Kalat's Biological Psychology by Elaine Hull

Grading:
There will be one quiz (20%), one midterm exam (40%) and a final exam (40%) on the dates indicated in the syllabus. The midterm and the final exam will consist of 40-60 multiple-choice questions and two essay questions each. The final is not cumulative but will assume knowledge of earlier sections of the course. The quiz will be 20-30 multiple-choice questions only. All exams will be "closed book" meaning no text or notes may be consulted.

If students miss the quiz for any reason, or if they perform better on the other exams, the midterm and final will be weighted 50% each.

There will be no make-up for the quiz. Instead, other exams will receive more weight. Make-up exams for the midterm and final are strongly discouraged. If a medical emergency results in the missing of an exam, an alternate exam may be arranged after adequate written documentation of the medical excuse is provided. This exam will be an essay exam and may be partly oral (with Dr. Gorman).

The grading scale is as follows:
A: 90% +
B: 80 – 89.9%
C: 70 – 79.9%
D: 60 – 69.9%
F: < 60%

Final grades will be modified by plusses and minuses. In past years, the median grade in the class has been a B. Approximately 20-30% have earned A's; and 30-50% have earned B's. A curve will be applied only in the case that the exams turn out to be more difficult than I intended. In other words, if everyone scores above 90%, then everyone will get an A. But if the class average is 60% (don't worry, it won't be!), I would apply a curve so that the median grade was probably a B.

Although unlikely to exercise this option, the professor reserves the right to make changes to all of the assessment and grading policies described above.

Academic conduct:
Although the vast majority of students is of high academic integrity, it is still necessary to say that cheating will not be tolerated. Students found cheating will fail the course (see the General Catalog for UCSD's policy on academic dishonesty), and full academic disciplinary measures will be taken. There will be no exceptions. Cheating includes providing test answers, taking test answers or otherwise representing work of others as your own.

Schedule of lecture topics/exams

5-Aug
- Introduction to the course
- Global organization of the nervous system

7-Aug
- Cells of the nervous system
- Communication between neurons

12-Aug
- Psychopharmacology and drugs of abuse
- Development

14-Aug
- Quiz (20%)
- Brain damage and recovery
- Hearing

19-Aug
- Touch senses
- Movement

21-Aug
- Midterm exam (40%)
- Emotion

26-Aug
- Hunger
- Circadian Rhythms

28-Aug
- Sleep
- Learning and memory in humans

2-Sept
- HOLIDAY
- NO CLASS

4-Sept
- Learning and memory in animals
- Integration

6-Sept
- FINAL (40%)
- 3 – 4:30 pm