

SYLLABUS for *Brain and Behavior* **Psych 2250-002 Spring 2021**

TIME & PLACE: MWF 10:00-10:50pm, Via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Benjamin Clark

EMAIL: bnjclark@unm.edu

DESCRIPTION: This course is concerned primarily with the organization of the mammalian brain, and the manner in which the brain normally produces thoughts, feelings, movements, perceptions, and memories.

TEXTBOOK: Kolb & Wishaw, *An Introduction to Brain and Behavior*, 6th Edition.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students should:

1. Be able to describe and define the basic principles guiding the field of brain and behavior.
2. Have a greater understanding in basic methodological principles guiding neuroscience.
3. Be able to describe, define, and analyze the brain basis of psychiatric and neurological disorders.
4. Be more confident in their ability to describe the overall impact of modern neuroscience research studies on society.
5. Express an understanding of (and maybe an interest in!) the different careers in neuroscience.

COURSE SCHEDULE: This schedule of activities is subject to change. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

| <u>Topic</u> | <u>Readings</u> | <u>Tentative Date</u> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Origins of Brain & Behavior | Ch 1 | Jan 20 - Jan 25 |
| Journal Entry 1 | | Due: Jan 24 (11:59pm) |
| Nervous System Organization | Ch 2 | Jan 27 – Feb 1 |
| Functional Units of the Nervous System | Ch 3 | Feb 3 – Feb 5 |
| Journal Entry 2 | | Due: Feb 7 (11:59pm) |
| Electrical Activity of Brain Cells | Ch 4 | Feb 8 – Feb 12 |
| Journal Entry 3 | | Due: Feb 14 (11:59pm) |
| Exam 1 | | Feb 17 |
| Electrochemical Signals | Ch 5 | Feb 19 – Feb 24 |
| Journal Entry 4 | | Due: Feb 21 (11:59pm) |
| Drugs & Behavior | Ch 6 | Feb 26 – March 1 |
| Journal Entry 5 | | Due: Feb 28 (11:59pm) |
| Methods in Neuroscience | Ch 7 | March 3 |
| Journal Entry 6 | | Due: March 7 (11:59pm) |
| Nervous System Development | Ch 8 | March 5 – March 8 |
| Exam 2 | | March 12 |

Spring Break

Vision Ch 9

Journal Entry 7

Hearing & Speaking Ch 10

Movement & Sensation Ch 11

Exam 3

Motivation & Emotion Ch 12

Journal Entry 8

Learning, Memory, Dementia Ch 13

Recovery from Brain Injury Ch 14

Journal Entry 9

Cognitive Neuroscience Ch 15

Journal Entry 10**Exam 4****March 13 – March 21**

March 22 – March 26

Due: March 28 (11:59pm)

March 29 – April 2

April 5 – April 9

April 14

April 16

Due: April 18 (11:59pm)

April 19 – April 23

April 26

Due: April 25 (11:59pm)

April 28 – May 3

Due: May 2 (11:59pm)**May 7**

JOURNAL ENTRIES: A total of 10 journal writing activities will be required in the course. These will be composed of short write-ups centered around research-related activities. You will also be required to complete journal entries based on topics ranging from careers in neuroscience, profiles of neuroscientists and related careers in neuroscience, and the societal impact of neuroscience research. The aim of these activities is to give you a sense of career opportunities in neuroscience and the underlying principals guiding how neuroscientists do neuroscience! Each assignment will be worth 4% totaling 40% of the final grade.

EXAMS: Four examinations will consist of multiple-choice, true-false questions, matching, and short-answer. The exams will include material covered during the preceding weeks of class. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final grade, but only the top three exams will count towards your final grade. Make-up exams will be given in two situations: 1) If a student has arranged with the instructor prior to the examination date to take a make-up exam (e.g., if there is a schedule conflict), 2) If a student has an acceptable excuse for missing an exam (e.g., death in family, illness).

GRADING: Exams = 60%; Journal Entries: 40%. The grading scale used for this course is as follows: A+ (97+), A (90-96), B+ (87-89), B (80-86), C+ (77-79), C (70-76), D+ (67-69), D (60-66), F (<59)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular and punctual attendance is required. UNM Pathfinder policies apply, which in part means instructor drops based on non-attendance are possible. This policy applies regardless of the grading option you have chosen.

ACCOMODATION: Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: It is your responsibility to be aware of the UNM student code of conduct, which is available in the Student Handbook (The Pathfinder). As a student pursuing

academic credit in this course you should also be familiar with UNM's student grievance procedures which are also described in Pathfinder (<http://pathfinder.unm.edu/index.html>) especially those concerning academic dishonesty. Instances of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating) will be dealt with according to the procedures described at <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/common/policies/academic-dishonesty.html>. Please be considerate of others and refrain from talking or making excessive noise during lecture. If you have to be asked to refrain from talking more than once during the semester you will be dropped.

CELL PHONES and TECHNOLOGY: As a matter of courtesy, please turn off cell phones, pagers, and other communication and entertainment devices prior to the beginning of class. Notify me in advance if you are monitoring an emergency, for which cell phone ringers should be switched to vibrate.

LIBRARY and TUTORIAL SERVICES: UNM-Main campus provides many library services and some tutorial services for distance students. For library services, go to <http://www.unm.edu/libraries/> to link to a specific library or to contact a librarian. For tutorial services, go to <http://caps.unm.edu/online> to explore UNM's online services.

TITLE IX STATEMENT: In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education (see page 15 of <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>) requires that any report of gender discrimination that includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (<https://oeo.unm.edu>). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>