

# Course Syllabus

## PSYCH 10: Introduction to Biological Psychology

### Course Description

This course introduces the scientific study of the biological basis of behavior and its fundamental role in the neurosciences.

Physiological, hormonal, and neurochemical mechanisms, and brain-behavior relationships underlying the psychological phenomena of sensation, perception, regulatory processes, emotion, learning, memory, and psychological disorders will be addressed. The course also notes historical scientific contributions and current research principles for studying brain-behavior relationships and mental processes.



### Class Meetings

Mon/Wed 9-11am

### Location

Petaluma Campus  
PC 630

### Instructor

Erin Sullivan, PhD  
esullivan@santarosa.edu  
(707) 778-3965

### Office Hours

Tues/Thurs 12-1pm  
Wednesdays 11-12pm  
PC 677

You are always welcome to stop by my office to talk about assignments, raise questions, and address concerns.

**Recommended Preparation**  
ENGL1A

### Required Materials

#### COURSE WEBSITE CANVAS

Link through MyCubby  
Required course  
materials found here

#### READING MATERIALS

Found on Canvas

Optional textbook: Carlson, N. R. (2014).

Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience (9<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc. (ISBN-13: 978-0-205-94799-7)

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify basic brain structures and functional neural systems, as related to psychological pathologies.
- Examine brain structures and functional organization relating to language, learning, memory, reward, and sensory/motor systems.
- Compare and contrast the role for neurotransmitters in the etiology and treatment of various psychopathologies such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse.

## Format

Classes will typically be of lecture and discussion format, with videos, demonstrations, and activities providing important contributions to student understanding of materials. In class, I try to cover different material than what is covered in the homework.

Students must come to class prepared to participate. Reading and homework must be completed prior to the lecture during which they will be discussed. Assignments are listed on the last page of this syllabus and on Canvas. Keeping up with the work is essential to student contribution to and success in the class, as some material will be covered in the book only, and not in class.

## Attendance

You are expected to attend every meeting of this course in its entirety unless extreme circumstances force your non-attendance. If you cannot attend class, it is not necessary to notify me of the reason for your absence from class unless you miss an exam or plan to be absent for a prolonged period of time. If you need to miss a lecture it is recommended that you contact a classmate in order to copy their notes. You are also welcome to attend office hours to discuss what you have missed.

## Academic Integrity

I expect that everyone enrolled in this course is academically honest and that your behavior during the quarter will demonstrate this. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. All written work is to be original; plagiarism of any kind will result in a 0 on that

assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat may be suspended and referred to the Vice President of Student Services for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation. More resources on SRJC's criteria for academic integrity are available at <https://studentlife.santarosa.edu/academic-integrity>



## Accommodations

If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note-taker, test-taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may also speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD is located in Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

## EMAIL POLICY

Email will be answered during normal work hours (9am – 5pm) Monday through Friday. During the week, the instructor will usually respond to emails within 24 hours. Emails sent outside of those hours, or on the weekends, will be returned, but it *may* not be until the resumption of normal business hours.

When you do communicate by email, include your name with class and section number in the subject line. This helps identify you as a student even if your email comes categorized as junk mail. It is beneficial to use the Canvas messaging function. Also, please remember that email should be composed using formal, professional language.

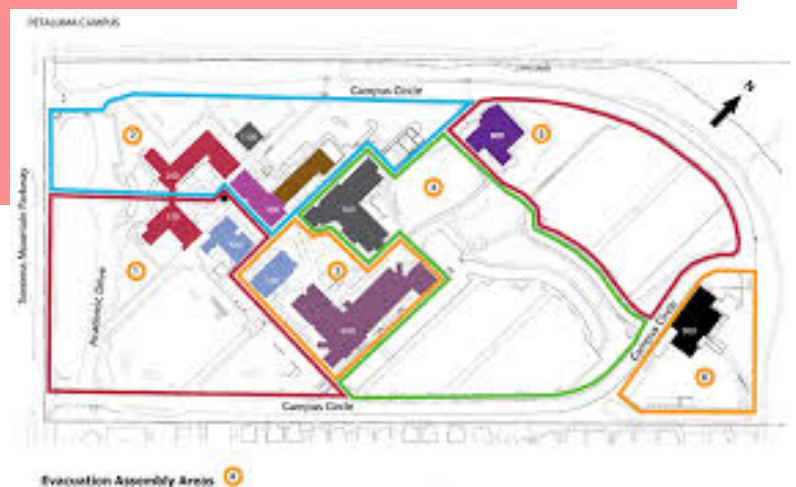


## Class Expectations

- We will conduct ourselves in a manner which reflects our awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code (<https://student-conduct.santarosa.edu>) and adhere to it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from two (2) classes and referred to Vice President of Student Services for discipline.
- While in class, please observe common classroom courtesies: please turn OFF your telephone and save eating, chatting, homework, texting, social media, and sleeping for elsewhere. No personal listening devices are allowed in class or during exams. If you use a laptop or tablet, you may access ONLY class-related materials and must sit toward the back of the classroom.
- Audio recording, videotaping, and /or photography during class is strictly prohibited. Exceptions may be made with DRD accommodations.
- If your schedule prevents you from regularly attending the entire class, you should consider enrolling in a different section of the course which better accommodates your schedule.
- If you choose to no longer attend class, you need to follow the SRJC guidelines to withdraw from a course, as I typically do not drop students who stop coming to class. Withdrawing from a class can prevent you from receiving an "F" for the course.
- Tardiness and early departure is disruptive and disrespectful to your instructor and classmates. If you must arrive to class late or leave early, please minimize disruption by sitting close to the door.
- Do not pack up your books and personal belongings before the end of the class session. It is disrespectful and creates unnecessary noise.
- Please familiarize yourself with SRJC Attendance Requirement Policy and Procedure 8.1.5. Students may be dropped from class if their absences (regardless of reason unless required by state or federal law) exceed 10% of the total hours of class time (4 classes in this course).

## Emergency Evacuation Plan

In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. Our class will exit the classroom to the left and meet in assembly area #3, in Rotary Plaza, to make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me during my office hours as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.



## Evaluation

Students can earn points in several different ways (homework, exams, paper). These evaluation procedures assess students' comprehension of topics and mastery of student learning outcomes.

### HOMEWORK

In order for students to develop a deeper understanding of materials, there are several homework assignments throughout the semester. I will post the materials that you need to complete homework assignments on Canvas. All of these materials (readings, videos, links, tutorials, etc.) are required.

All quiz attempts are due by 11:59pm on the due date. There are no make-up or late assignments (0 points). Although students' one lowest homework grade will be dropped.

It is also best if you complete these assignments on a computer or tablet, rather than on a mobile device. If you do not have reliable computer or internet access, you may use a computer on the SRJC campus.

### EXAMINATIONS AKA GAMES

There will be 4 non-cumulative games in this course. Each game will be scored out of 100% points. See the course schedule for game dates. Games include a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions.

Games will be distributed at the start of class and will be given out **ONLY** until the first person finishes their response. After that point, you will not be able to take the examination, so **PLEASE BE ON TIME TO CLASS!** You will be surprised how quickly some of your classmates finish their responses!

No makeup exams will be given unless there is a rare **documented** emergency that prevents your attendance in class. You may be required to complete an alternate version of the exam. No late make-up exams will be provided without proper documentation. You may only take one make-up exam during the term.

### RESEARCH PROJECT

In order to develop their research and writing skills, students will complete a research project exploring Current Topics in Biological Psychology. Details for this paper and presentation will be presented in class.

The paper will be submitted via upload to Canvas. Only papers below 15% duplicated will be assessed by the instructor. Papers above 15% duplicated will receive 0 points. Students will have the opportunity to check the duplication rate in advance of the due date.



### GRADING

Homework and Examinations.	85%
Research Project	15%

### SCALE

A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: <60%

Grades will be determined according to the percentage of total points earned, with some possible adjustment depending on the distribution of scores.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Opportunities for extra credit may be provided at the instructor's discretion.

### Contact Information from 3 Teammates:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

Specific information in this syllabus subject to change at Instructor's discretion.  
Reading materials posted online.

Date	Topic	Due to Canvas by 11:59pm prior to class
September 5	Spring Training: Welcome to Biopsych! Tinbergen's Questions	
September 10	Practice 2: Stress	Welcome HW Stress HW
September 12*	Practice 3: Neurons	Neuron HW
September 17	Practice 4: Neurotransmission	Neurotransmission HW
September 19	Practice 5: Finish Neurotransmission	Glial Cell HW
September 24**	Practice 6: Psychopharmacology	Psychopharmacology HW
September 26	<b>Game 1: All material from P1-6</b>	
October 1	Practice 7: Research Methods	Research Methods HW
October 3	Practice 8: Lateralization	Lateralization HW
October 8	Practice 9: Nervous System	Nervous System HW
October 10	Practice 10: Brain Development	Development HW
October 15	Practice 11: Evolutionary Psychology	Evolution HW
October 17	Practice 12: Epigenetics	Genetics HW
October 22	<b>Game 2: All material from P7-12</b>	
October 24	Practice 13: Sex Development 1	Sex Development HW
October 29	Practice 14: Sex Development 2	
October 31	Practice 15: Sensation & Perception	Sensation & Perception HW
November 5	Practice 16: Vision 1	Vision HW
November 7	Practice 17: Memory 1	Memory 1 HW
November 12	No Class: Veterans Day Holiday	
November 14***	Practice 18: Memory 2	Memory 2 HW
November 19	<b>Game 3: All material from P13-18</b>	
November 21	Practice 19: Language	Language HW
November 26	Practice 20: Sleep	Sleep HW
November 28	Practice 21: ADHD and Depression	Depression HW
December 3	Practice 22: Anxiety and Schizophrenia	Anxiety HW Schizophrenia HW
December 5	Practice 23: Current Topics	Current Topics Paper and Presentation
December 6	Poster Presentation Opportunity 2-5pm	
December 10	<b>Game 4: All material from P19-23</b>	

\*Last Day to Drop and be eligible for refund: Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018

\*\* Last Day to Drop without a 'W' symbol: Monday, Sept. 24, 2018

\*\*\* Last Day to Drop with a 'W' symbol: Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018