

UNM College of Arts & Sciences
PSY 240 Sections 040/041
Brain & Behavior
Course Syllabus Spr 2010

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TEXTBOOK & READINGS

The textbook required for this course is: B Kolb & IQ Whishaw (2006*) *An Introduction to Brain & Behavior* (NY: Worth Publishers). ISBN: 0716770695 WITH CD ***Second Edition** <http://www.worthpublishers.com/kolb> It is available as an eBook online and downloadable versions are available for purchase at <http://www.coursesmart.com/9780716711872>. **DO NOT PURCHASE THE 3RD EDITION**

It is available also at UNM Bookstore <http://bookstore.unm.edu>. The other vendors such as <http://half.ebay.com> or <http://www.amazon.com> may sell the text at a lower price. This textbook comes with a CD-ROM ("Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience") that is an important resource for successful completion of the course.

A copy of the textbook is available on reserve at the Centennial Science and Engineering Library on the UNM Albuquerque campus, and sometimes material may be on electronic reserve via the UNM libraries (see <http://www.unm.edu/libraries.html>).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We live in a time of breathtaking discovery regarding the processes by which mammalian nervous systems are formed and function in everyday behavior. Psych 240 is designed to provide the basic conceptual tools needed to understand these new discoveries, evaluate news reports, seek further information, and even begin to pursue a career in this area.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND PREREQUISITES

Academic prerequisites:

The only formal prerequisite is Psych 105 OR Biol 121L, but an introductory biology course is highly recommended for those with limited biology background. This course will review in detail the neuroanatomy and physiology of the nervous system, so those without knowledge

of cell biology and genetics may have a difficulty keeping up. This course is available to full-time students and non-degree students attending part-time.

Students should expect to spend at least 8 hours per week on this course and read at least 10 pages of the textbook each day. In addition to reading, time is needed for viewing course online content, participating in class conferences, completing homework assignments, and posting to the discussion area.

Taking an online course.

This is a totally-online course using software called Web Course Tools (WebCT). Information about how WebCT works at UNM is available at <http://webctinfo.unm.edu/student/>. Students who enroll in Psych240:040 will automatically be able to access course materials beginning on the first day of the semester, using their UNM NetID and password at <http://vista.unm.edu>. Specific help information will be included throughout the course and there will be required orientation work during the first week to help you get acclimated.

It is better to use the direct path to your course, **<http://vista.unm.edu>**, than to use the <http://my.unm.edu> portal. The My UNM portal times out, but your online course will not; nevertheless, the portal makes you think you have been kicked out of the course!

All announcements/changes/due dates will be posted on WebCT: It is the student's responsibility to check log in to WebCT to check announcements, the course calendar and mail for communications and changes to the course ... several times a week.

Exams:

There are chapter quizzes for credit which can be taken open book. There are 5 unit exams intended as closed book exams. For this reason **students will be asked to take each of the 5 unit exams in a proctored setting**. A proctor will be available at Logan Hall on the UNM Campus. Other common locations include campus testing centers, local libraries and University branch centers. We have some information available for sites in Albuquerque and around New Mexico and can advise students who live outside of the state. Check the course homepage for that information.

WE DO NOT USE FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, or CO-WORKERS AS PROCTORS.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Students who have technical problems with WebCT can contact free technical support through one of the following ways:

- within the course email Jane Erlandson; she will respond as soon as possible during the week
- or, contact UNM IT support at (505) 277-5757

Students who have technical problems are still responsible for meeting course deadlines. If you wait until the last minute to complete assignments, then technical glitches can be

costly. Do inform your instructor if you have encountered a technical problem, but use the above resources to solve it.

COURSE OUTLINE

Note: Special Assignments during the week of January 19th

- Login in immediately and begin work on the Orientation
- Become familiar with how to work within the WebCT environment and following course policies
- Begin reading the textbook

Jan 19-24	Origins of Brain and Behavior Read Textbook Chapter 1 and take Quiz – 10 pts Complete Orientation in WebCT - 50 pts
Jan 25-31	Development of the Nervous System Read Chapter 6 and take Quiz – 10 pts
	Any student who has not logged on to the WebCT course and submitted at least one assignment/quiz as of Jan 28 will be dropped from the course by Instructor
Feb 1-7	How Does the Nervous System Function Read Chapter 2 and take Quiz – 10 pts
Feb 1-7	Unit 1 Review Quiz - 10 pts
Feb 8-11*	Unit 1 Exam - 100 pts
Feb 8-14 Feb 14	Emotional and Motivated Behavior Read Chapter 11 and take Quiz – 10 pts Take SPECIAL Library nonproctored exam - 10 pts
Feb 15-21 Feb 21	Units of Nervous System Read from Chapter 3 and take Quiz– 10 pts Library Assignment Due - 40 pts
Feb 22-28 Feb 28	Neurons Transmit Information Read Chapter 4 and take Quiz– 10 pts Take SPECIAL IONS nonproctored exam – 10 pts
Feb 22-28 Mar 1- 4*	Unit 2 Review Quiz - 10 pts Unit 2 Exam - 100 pts

Mar 1-7 MAR 7	Drugs and Hormones Influence Brain & Behavior Read Chapter 7 and take Quiz– 10 pts Written Research Report on Ions and Addiction -40pts
Mar 8-13*ok to submit on Mar 14) Mar 13	Neurons Communicate and Adapt Read Chapter 5 and take Quiz– 10 pts Take SPECIAL DNA nonproctored exam – 10 pts
MAR 14-21	SPRING BREAK
Mar 22 Mar 22-28	Written Research Report on Genes and Plasticity - 40pts Why Sleep? Read Chapter 12 and take Quiz – 10 pts
Mar 22-28 Mar 29- Apr 1*	Unit 3 Review Quiz - 10 pt Unit 3 Exam - 100 pts
Mar 29- Apr 4	Learning and Remembering Read Chapter 13 and take Quiz– 10 pts
Apr 5-11 Apr 11	Perception Read Chapter 8 and take Quiz 10 pts Take SPECIAL LTP nonproctored exam– 10 pts
Apr 12-18 Apr 18	Hearing, Speech, Music Read Chapter 9 and take Quiz– 10 pts Written Research Report on Addiction and Plasticity - 40pts
Apr 12-18 Apr 19-22	Unit 4 Review Quiz - 10 pts Unit 4 Exam - 100 pts
Apr 19-25	Action is Reaction Read Chapter 10 and take Quiz – 10 pts
Apr 26-May 2 May 2	What is Thinking? Read Chapter 14 and take Quiz – 10 pts Written Research Report on Genes and Addiction - 40pts

May 3-9 May 9	Our Brains and Who We Are Read Chapter 15 and take Quiz– 10 pts Take SPECIAL PFC nonproctored exam – 10 pts
May 3-9 May 10-13*	Unit 5 Review Quiz - 10 pts Unit 5 EXAM - 100 pts

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Grading Summary	
Chapter Quizzes	150 points possible
Unit Review Quizzes	50 points possible
Written Assignments	Orientation 50 points possible Library assignment 40 points possible Describe Research [4 assignments @ 40 points each] 160 points possible
5 Unit Exams	[100 points each] total 500 possible
5 special topic exams	[10 points each] Total 50 points possible

There are 1000 possible points to be earned for written work, quizzes, and tests through the semester. A total of 900 points is guaranteed to earn a grade of "A"; a total of 700 points is guaranteed to result in passing this class. We will have specific times for group Class conferences each week – this feature is similar to lectures in traditional classes.

It will be important to keep up with the course schedule, to participate in the Class conferences to get your questions answered, and post to the Discussion area, in order to do well in this course. You simply cannot do it all in the last few weeks of the term and it is not feasible to take a grade of "Incomplete." EXTRA CREDIT points can raise a student's Final Grade by one increment (e.g., an A- to an A). Each student may earn up to 5 units of extra credit for the semester by posting to the class discussion area, completing structural-knowledge assessments (SKA), or participating in class virtual lecture sessions.

Chapter Assignments

We will cover chapters of the textbook in a specific order and each 3 chapters will form a unit. **It is strongly recommended that you plan to read at least 12 pages each day, throughout the term.** There is a short open-book quiz that goes with each chapter and full credit is given if the quiz is taken at least 4 times during the week we are covering that chapter. Students are free to read ahead, but will not have access to each quiz until the week we are covering that chapter.

Weekly Discussion Topics:

Regular times for virtual lectures will be posted in the course Calendar and students may request conversation sessions at other times. Students are free to chat with each other at their discretion. Each week, the virtual lectures will focus on thoughts and questions students have about assigned readings, as well as addressing any questions about course assignments. Students who cannot attend live can view recordings of past lectures within the course website.

Discussion Topic Formats: Below are some guidelines when posting to discussion topics:

- If your posting is a response to a current threaded discussion, make sure you Reply to the thread rather than Compose discussion message
- Posting should be meaningful and thoughtful.
- Preview a message before posting to check format.
- Keep discussion messages to manageable size

Quizzes:

For each chapter, you will have an open-book quiz. The quizzes will be available every day throughout the week, and will closely follow the information presented in the textbook.

- Total number of chapter quizzes -15
- Credit: 10 points each if taken at least 4 times during the week
- Each quiz can be taken multiple times and no time limit per attempt
- Open Book

Written Assignments:

During the semester there will be written assignments aimed at understanding research by describing research studies and integrating information from the textbook into these descriptions.

- Submit before the deadline or lose points

REMINDER about Late Submissions:

All final dates for taking assignments and quizzes are posted on the course calendar and on the quiz page. Credit for weekly quizzes requires you to complete them during the assigned week. The five closed-book exams are each available for a 4-day period. You will receive point deductions for any written assignment not completed by its deadline.

Unit exams will be preceded by a Unit Review Quiz

- Total number of unit review quizzes -5
- Credit: 10 points each
- No time limit
- Open Book

Unit Exams:

- Online in WebCT
- Available Monday morning through Thursday evening
- Must be taken closed book **in a proctored setting**
- Multiple choice or matching format
- Only can be accessed one time it will be important to have a good uninterrupted internet connection for each of those tests and it is the student's responsibility to secure the necessary equipment to do so

Special Content Topics:

To supplement your textbook, 5 recorded flash lectures will be available to view at your convenience. Each lecture will be accompanied by a nonproctored Exam that will be worth 10 points.

Extra Credit:

Up to 5 credits for virtual lecture participation, Discussion Board Postings, and a special form of knowledge assessment can increase final course grade up to one increment (e.g., B to B+)

COURSE EVALUATION

Students will be asked to complete a mid-term and final course evaluation survey online for this course. These surveys are completely anonymous and provide useful information to

improve this course for next semesters' students. These surveys will be listed on the calendar and will appear in the quizzes section of the course. .

COURSE POLICIES

ALL Announcements/Changes/Due Dates Will be Posted on WebCT: It is the student's responsibility to check their WebCT account and calendar for communications and changes to the course several times a week. Quizzes and exams may not be taken after their deadlines. Late written assignments will BE GIVEN GRADE DEDUCTIONS.

Incompletes, Withdrawals, and Drops: An online course offers certain conveniences, but **TAKES MORE TIME THAN A CLASSROOM COURSE**. If you signed up hoping the online course would let you squeeze 3 more hours of credit into an already impossible schedule, **PLEASE DROP THIS COURSE NOW**. It will require several hours of work each week to pass this course.

Please see the UNM academic calendar for the last day to drop courses without penalty: <http://www.unm.edu/~unmreg/acadcal.htm>. In order to withdraw Passing, a student must have earned at least 70% of points possible for assignments due as of the time Withdrawal was requested. **Each student is responsible for learning to use the website, participating actively, and keeping up with the course. This is a difficult and demanding course; if you are not planning to work hard throughout the semester, it is not for you. Any student who has not logged on to WebCT by Jan 28 will be dropped by the instructor.** The WP is reserved for students who have been doing the work, but for whom a change in circumstances makes further participation inadvisable. **Procrastination in this course is not a good strategy.** Students who do not do the work will receive a failing grade.

Academic Integrity: Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional manners. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet these standards. All work including the term paper are expected to be your own individual work; **paraphrasing a document written by someone else is a violation**. Cheating or plagiarizing will be treated according to the UNM Code of Conduct: <http://www.unm.edu/~doso/html/conduct.html>

Access to Education: **Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact the instructor as soon as possible** to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. For information on assistive technology available for student use and additional information on services available through **Student Accessibility Services**, see <http://www.unm.edu/~as>. Students must work with Student Accessibility Services in order to make any special arrangements for taking exams.

Audit: A student may register for a course as an auditor, providing permission of the instructor is obtained. A student has the first four weeks of the semester to change a course to audit status. No changes in audit status will be processed after the fourth week of class. Students are charged the normal tuition rate for auditing a course.

Collaboration: Collaborative work, such as studying or discussing course assignments and materials with other class members, is highly encouraged. Students are encouraged to collaborate with each other using the WebCT email discussion area tools.

Copyright: All materials in this course fall under copyright laws and should not be downloaded, distributed, or used by students for any purposes outside of this course.

Privacy and WebCT Tracking Notice: WebCT or the course web site automatically records all students activities, including, your first and last access to the course, the pages you have accessed, the number of discussion messages you have read and sent, chat room discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data is accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify students having difficulty using WebCT features.

Incompletes, Withdrawals, and Drops: Incompletes are not feasible given the unique circumstances of this course. Withdrawals are reserved for circumstances in which an unforeseen event interrupts an actively-participating student's attendance. If a student otherwise fails to keep up in the class it is entirely his or her responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course. If you are running into problems with the course, please contact me right away so you do not fall behind.

This course falls under all UNM policies for last day to drop courses, etc. Please see <http://www.unm.edu/studentinfo.html> or the UNM Course Catalog for information on UNM services and policies. Please see the UNM academic calendar for course dates, the last day to drop courses without penalty, and for financial disenrollment dates.

Participation in Research on Effectiveness of Teaching Practices: During this semester, some of the quiz and exam responses will be included in research evaluating the effectiveness of different modes of presenting information. These evaluations will not affect the course syllabus nor requirements for any student, and will not affect any student's course grade. The analyses will be conducted on de-identified data, meaning that students' identities are not known to the research team that conducts the statistical analyses.