Psychobiology (PSY 329-02)  
Fall 2006  
T Th 3:00 – 4:15 p.m., KT 250

Instructor: Daren Kaiser  
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Course Description: Psychobiology is a course that is designed to familiarize you with biological explanations of behavior. During the first portion of the course we will be discussing how the brain and nervous system operate. Later we will discuss biological explanations of various behaviors that we all engage in (i.e., eating and sleeping) as well as disorders that can arise when there are problems with the nervous system.

Course Objectives:
Objective 1: Understand how the nervous system works.
Objective 2: Get a feel for the diverse and exciting research that has been going on in psychobiology. We will discuss many fascinating research findings in this course, and you will see that the biology of behavior is being studied in very different ways by the researchers in this field.
Objective 3: Become a better consumer of psychology. I hope that your experience in this course will increase your skills as a critical thinker. This will better allow you to evaluate claims that are made in the media about why people act the way do.

Point Breakdown: There will be a total of 700 points possible to earn in this course.

Exams
Exam 1 = 100 pts  
Exam 2 = 100 pts  
Exam 3 = 100 pts  
Exam 4 = 100 pts  
Exam 5 = 100 pts

Paper
Paper topic = 10 pts  
References (3) = 30 pts  
Paper outline = 30 pts  
Rough Draft = 30 pts  
Final Paper = 100 pts

Course Grading: Your course grade will depend on the average of the five tests and the term paper according to the chart below.

(89.5-100) = A  
(79.5-89.4) = B  
(69.5-79.4) = C  
(59.5-69.4) = D  
(0 - 59.4) = F

The Paper: Each portion of the paper is due on the date specified according to the schedule below. If any portion is late it will not be accepted and you will receive zero points. This is true for the final paper as well. I will need two copies of the final paper. The final paper must be written in APA style, and must have a minimum of five peer reviewed
references. You must turn in each reference (the whole article) with the two copies of your final paper. Failure to turn in the articles you used to write your final paper will result in zero points awarded. Of course, plagiarism will also result in zero points awarded.

**Attendance:** You should always attend class, since it will benefit you greatly in terms of performance on tests. Absences will be considered excused if the reason for the absence conforms to the requirements of the university to be considered excused. Unexcused absences on days of exams will result in zero points achieved for that particular exam. Presentation material that is missed due to an unexcused absence becomes the student's responsibility to obtain.

**General Information:** If you have a disability or acquire one, contact Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb 113, 481-6657) for the services and accommodations that are available at IPFW.

CASA (Center for Academic Support and Advancement), KT G21
Writing Center, KT G19
Dean of Students Office, Walb 111
Multicultural Services, Walb 118
Academic Counseling and Career Services (ACCS), KT 109

**Tentative Lecture, exam, and paper due dates:**
Aug 22 – Syllabus: What is Biopsychology - Ch 1
Aug 24 – Biopsychological research - Ch 1
Aug 29 - Evolution and Genetics – Ch 2
Aug 31 – Thinking About the Biology of Behavior Ch 2
Sept 5 - Neurons, Glia, and the General Layout of the Nervous System Ch 3
Sept 7 – The Gross Anatomy of the Nervous System – Ch 3
Sept 12 - The Gross Anatomy of the Nervous System – Ch 3
Sept 14 – **Exam 1**
Sept 19 – Go over exam + Neural Conduction – Ch 4 -- **Topic for Paper is Due**
Sept 21 - Neural Conduction – Ch 4
Sept 26 – Neural Conduction – Ch 4
Sept 28 – Methods of Studying the Nervous System -Ch 5 -- **Three References for Paper are Due (must turn in the entire article).**

Oct 3 – Behavioral Research Methods of Biopsychology Ch 5

**Oct 5: Exam 2**
Oct 10 – **No Class**
Oct 12 – Go over exam + The Visual System from Eyes to Cortex – Ch 6
Oct 17 – The Perception of Contrast and Color – Ch 6
Oct 19 - Cortical Mechanisms of Vision – Ch 7 -- **Outline of Paper is Due**
Oct 24 – Cortical Mechanisms of Vision – Ch 7
Oct 26 – Somatosensory System, Chemical Senses, General Model of Sensory System Organization – Ch 7

Oct 31 - **Exam 3**
Nov 2 – Brain Damage and Neuroplasticity – Ch 10
Nov 7 - Brain Damage and Neuroplasticity – Ch 10
Nov 9 - Brain Damage and Neuroplasticity – Ch 10
Nov 14 – What, Where, When and How Much We Eat? – Ch 12 - **Rough Draft of paper is due**
Nov 16 – Hunger, Satiety, and Eating Disorders – Ch 12

**Nov 21 - Exam 4**

**Nov 23 – No Class**
Nov 28 - Sleeping and Dreaming: Why do We Sleep? – Ch 14
Nov 30 – Sleeping and Dreaming: Why do We Sleep? – Ch 14
Dec 5 - Principles of Drug Action – Ch 15
Dec 7 - Principles of Drug Action – Ch 15 -- **Final Paper is Due** (a copy of the rough draft, and copies of all articles cited in the manuscript must be included)

Dec 14– **Exam 5** (10:30 am-12:30 pm)