

# SYLLABUS: Psychology 303 1001 – Foundations of Neuroscience

Spring 2022 – Monday & Wednesday

## Instructor and Teaching Assistant Information

- Instructor: Dr. XXXX XXXX
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## Textbook

- Title: *An Introduction to Brain and Behavior*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2016)
- Authors: Bryan Kolb, Ian Q. Whishaw, G. Campbell Teskey
- Publisher Info: Worth Publishers (ISBN-10: 1-4641-0601-0; ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-0601-9)

## Course Objectives

To provide an overview or introduction to neuroscience by exploring the physiological basis of psychology (biological basis of behavior). Students will first learn about the fundamental elements of the nervous system (brain regions, cells of the brain and synaptic connections) and their functions. Subsequent lectures and readings will integrate these elements into the systems responsible for basic behaviors, and also into the pathology underlying common disorders of brain function.

## Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should have the following learning outcomes:

1. Describe and identify the structure and function of the nervous system.
2. Convey a basic understanding of the physiological basis of behavior.
3. Identify and describe how physiological topics are researched.
4. Relate principles of cell physiology to psychological behaviors such as learning and memory.
5. Critically review some aspect of research in neuroscience.

## Grading and Exams

1. There will be **weekly quizzes** of which you keep your **best 10 scores**. These will count **5%** toward your final grade. Quizzes will be at the beginning of class, if you are more than 5 minutes late you will not be allowed to write the quiz.
2. There will be **three exams, each worth 30%** of your final grade. The exams are not cumulative...however please note that the exams will include written format “bonus questions” that cover material from the first section of the course (2% total bonus credit per exam, added to exam score).

3. Exams will deal only with material covered in class lectures. The majority of this material is also covered in the recommended textbook readings (see below), but some details discussed in lecture do not appear in the text, so it benefits you greatly to attend class! Students will not be tested on any textbook material that is not covered in lecture.
4. **5% for laboratory participation.** There will a chance to come to my lab and look at the structure and cells of the brain under a microscope. You will take pictures of these brains and label various anatomical areas or parts of a neuron.

### **Tentative Timeline**

The tentative timeline below includes the topics and page numbers that we will cover during each class meeting. The page numbers reflect the sections of the book that cover the topics of discussion – for best preparation, I recommend reading the material before class.

#### *Section 1*

- Class 1 – Objectives, expectations, & why this is all so fascinating! (pages 1-14)
- Class 2 – Origins and evolution of behavior and brain (pages 14-31)
- Class 3 – Functional anatomy of the brain and nervous system (pages 33-47, 50-54, 59-66)
- Class 4 – Functional anatomy (continued) (pages 54-59)
- Class 5 – Cells of the nervous system: Neurons and glia (pages 73-86)
- Class 6 – Structural and functional properties of neuronal cells (pages 86-109)
- Class 7 – Communication between neurons: Synapses (pages 137-147, 109-119)
- Class 8 – Communication between neurons: Action potential (Pages 109-136)
- Class 9 – Exam Section 1

#### *Section 2*

- Class 10 – Chemical signals in the brain: Neurotransmitters (pages 147-162)
- Class 11 – Drugs and behavior (pages 171-200)
- Class 12 – Motivation and emotion (pages 397-442)
- Class 13 – Hormones and behavior (pages 200-214)
- Class 14 – Sleep, dreaming, and circadian rhythms (pages 442-478)
- Class 15 – Learning and memory (pages 163-169, 479-518)
- Class 16 – Lab (day 1)
- Class 17 – Lab (day 2)
- Class 18 – Learning and memory (continued) (pages 479-518)
- Class 19 – Exam Section 2

#### *Section 3*

- Class 20 – The visual system (pages 283-319)
- Class 21 – The visual system (continued) (pages 283-319)
- Class 22 – The somatosensory and vestibular systems (pages 379-396)
- Class 23 – Control of movement (pages 355-378)
- Class 24 – Neurodevelopment & disorders (pages 245-281)
- Class 25 – Psychiatric disorders (pages 564-576, 592-599)
- Class 26 – Acute brain damage and neurodegenerative disorders (pages 577-592)

- Class 27 – Consciousness and recent topics in neuroscience
- Class 28 – Review
- Class 29 – Final Exam Section 3

### **Class Guidelines**

All students are expected to participate in classroom activity and be respectful of other students, part of which means that **all cell phones are to be off or set on silent**. Any student that is found to have cheated on an exam or copied from another's work will receive a failing grade in the class and will be referred to the appropriate disciplinary authority at UNLV.

### **Policies for Missed Exams or Assignments**

Students are required to notify me directly via email if they are unable to complete an exam at the scheduled time. This notification must also include a valid reason for missing the exam. If timely notification and appropriate justification are not provided, the student will receive a zero for the quiz or exam. In the case of an emergency a student must inform me directly via email as soon as possible (within 24 hours) and thereafter provide documentation for the emergent situation. Any student that provides a valid reason for missing an exam will be given until the next scheduled meeting of the class to complete the exam, which will be administered by the Department of Psychology main office staff. In the rare occasion that a student cannot complete the exam prior to the next scheduled class meeting due to a valid reason, the student will be allowed to complete a make-up exam (essay question format using a blue-book) within one week of the exam date. Failure to provide adequate justification OR failure to adhere to the time frames listed above will result in a zero.

### **University Resources and Policies**

#### *Public Health Directives*

[Face coverings are currently mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom](#). Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](#). Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](#), including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

#### *Academic Misconduct*

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](#).

### *Auditing a Course*

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

### *Classroom Conduct*

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### *Copyright*

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](#) is available.

### *Disability Resource Center (DRC)*

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](#) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their

instructors.

### *Final Examinations*

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](#).

### *Identity Verification in Online Courses*

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#), which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](#), which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

### *Incomplete Grades*

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

### *Library Resources*

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](#) website. You can also [ask the library staff](#) questions via chat and text message.

### *Missed Classwork*

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](#) webpage.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

### *Rebelmail*

Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students’ Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

### *Tutoring and Coaching*

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For

information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](#), or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

### *UNLV Writing Center*

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](#), located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

### *Diversity Statement*

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](#).

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.