

PSYCHOLOGY 402

Neural Systems and Behavior
Syllabus Fall 2015

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Steven E. Brauth; **OFFICE:** 3123J; **OFFICE HOURS:** TuTh10AM;
EMAIL=sbrauth@umd.edu

CLASS SCHEDULE: TuTh 2:00PM-3:15PM, Rm BPS 1238

TEXT: "*Physiology of Behavior*", 9th, 10th or 11th (recommended) edition, by Neil R. Carlson, Pearson, 2010.

ELMS: Students should use the ELMS (Canvas) website (www.elms.umd.edu) to receive feedback concerning exam grades, and review class notes and practice exams.

COURSE GOALS:

PSYC 402 (Neural Systems and Behavior) is a senior level course in biopsychology. The principal focus of this course is study of the neurological mechanisms underlying sensation, perception, movement, sleep and waking, memory and human communication. For this reason the much of the material is concerned with basic neuroscience topics such as the principles of neurophysiology, neuroanatomy, neurochemistry and neuropharmacology. PSYC 200 as well as either PSYC 301 (Biological Basis of Behavior) or PSYC 206 (Developmental Biopsychology) are acceptable as prerequisites (see also the Schedule of Classes). *You must have satisfied the prerequisites for this course in order to enroll in PSYC 402.*

GRADING PROCEDURES:

Grades for PSYC 402 will be based on the scores students earn on **three** (3) in-class examinations, **one optional final exam** which will *replace* the lowest score for one in-class exam and **two** on-line quizzes (see enclosed course calendar). Each class examination will be worth 60 points and the quizzes will be worth 20 points for a total of 200 points possible. Students may take the on-line quizzes as many times as they like up to the due dates for each during the semester as specified in the Course Calendar below. The quizzes will be unavailable after these dates. Letter grades for the course will be assigned on the following basis although plus and minus grades will be assigned at the margins. A total of 194 points will be required for an A+:

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS	LETTER GRADE
180-200	A
160-179	B
140-159	C
120-139	D
Below 120	F

GENERAL UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES:

The Psychology Department provides the following URL describing most University guidelines which students should familiarize themselves with:

<http://umdpysc.blogspot.com/2012/01/department-of-psychology-standard.html> (Links to an external site.)

GRADE OF INCOMPLETE:

The grade of "I" is an unusual grade at the University of Maryland and is only assigned at the discretion of the instructor and in special cases. The following conditions must be met:

1. ***MOST*** of the course work must be completed at the time the grade is requested. Students who have seldom attended class and have not completed most of the work and two of the examinations will not be considered eligible for this grade.
2. ***SATISFACTORY*** performance in course work at the time of the request is required. Students not performing at the level of "C" or better (see grade schedule on previous page) are not considered eligible for a grade of "I".
3. An ***INCOMPLETE CONTRACT*** must be signed by both the student and the instructor. This contract will set a date at which time the work must be completed and specify the remaining assignments. If this contract is not fulfilled (i.e. if the student does not complete the assignments on schedule) a grade of "F" will be assigned in the course.
4. Students desiring a grade of "I" must present compelling and strong evidence that such a grade is warranted. Medical evidence must be documented and endorsed by appropriate physicians or medical professionals in writing. If the student's request is based on nonmedical reasons, the student must petition the instructor ***in writing*** for the grade of "I" stating clearly the reasons for the request.

RETAKEES:

There are ***NO*** retakes of examinations. Once you take an exam, the results (i.e. the grades) are final!

PARTICIPATION IN PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT EXPERIMENTS:

Students may receive up to two (2) course points for participation in approved Psychology Department experiments. This is the only form of extra credit available in this course. SONA Instructions Link: <http://ter.ps/sonainstruct> (Links to an external site.)

MAKE UP EXAMS:

Students requesting make-up examinations must petition the instructor in writing, providing

written documentation of medical excuses and clear explanations of nonmedical problems. The final decision in these cases rests exclusively with the instructor.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS:

If you have a documented disability, you should contact Disability Support Services 0126 Shoemaker Hall. Each semester students with documented disabilities should apply to DSS for accommodation request forms which you can provide to the instructor as proof of your eligibility for accommodations. The rules for eligibility and the types of accommodations a student may request can be reviewed on the DSS web site at http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/receiving_serv.html.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES:

The University System of Maryland policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs, students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Notice should be provided as soon as possible but no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>

The University of Maryland is one of a small number of universities with a student-administered Honors Code and an Honors Pledge, available on the web at <http://www.jpo.umd.edu/aca/honorpledge.html>. The code prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. The University Senate encourages instructors to ask students to write the following signed statement on each examination or assignment: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment)."

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Inclement weather or emergency closure of the University may occur during any semester. In the event of such occurrences students are advised to call the University main information number 301-405-SNOW and listen to radio and television news programs reporting local school closings.

In the event the University is closed, PSYC206 will not meet. If school closes on a day an exam is scheduled, the exam will occur on the next regular class meeting. In the event of school closings, it may be necessary to make up the work by extending the hours for other class periods or by meeting for an extra period at the end of the term. In such cases announcements will be posted at this website. Students should be mindful of these possibilities.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Lecture Topics	Dates	Reading Assignments
<i>I. Basic neurophysiology and neuroanatomy</i>		
Basic Principles of Neurophysiology	September 1-3	Chapters 1,2
Neuroanatomical Organization	September 8-10	Chapter 3
Neurotransmitter Systems	September 15-24	Chapter 4
EXAMINATION #1 (Quiz #1 Due by 2:00 PM)	September 29	Chapters 1-4
<i>II. Sensory Processes and Motor Processes</i>		
Visual System	October 1-13	Chapter 6
Auditory System	October 15-20	Chapter 7 (pp 208 to 226)
Control of Movement	October 22-27	Chapter 8
EXAMINATION #2 (Quiz #2 Due by 2:00 PM)	October 29	Chapters 6-8 (above)
<i>III. Integrative Processes</i>		
Sleep and Waking	November 3-5	Chapter 9
Learning and Memory	November 10-12	Chap 13 (pp434-468)
Communicative Processes	November 17	Chapter 14
Psychiatric Disorders	November 19 - Dec. 3	Chapter 16, 17 (up to page 593)
EXAMINATION #3	December 8	Chapters 9,13,14,16,17 (above)
Review for Final Exam	December 10	All above chapters
FINAL EXAMINATION	Thurs., Dec. 17 at 10:30 AM All above chapters	