

**Course Code & No. - Section:** PSYC 325 Section 1  
**Course Title (Credits):** Neuroscience  
**Term & Year:** Spring 2015  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 10022

**Instructor:** Thomas Wade Brown, Ph.D.  
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**Office:** TCES 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cubicles  
**Office Hours:** MTW 10:00am-12:00pm and by appointment

**Class Meeting Time:** TR 2:30p-3:45pm  
**Location:** PA 207

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 101

### Course Description

The physical basis of psychological states is found in the brain; therefore, brain structure and function relating to psychology and behavior are the basis for this course. Topics covered include the “senses,” consciousness, learning and memory, emotion, psychological disorders and language. Both experimental and clinical information are covered to illustrate the current state of knowledge in the field.

### Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Properly articulate form and function of the human brain and relevant chemicals related to behavior.
2. Utilize peer-reviewed resources and textbook materials to compose a presentation on a topic related to this class.
3. Design a research paper that explores topics in neuroscience and uses proper formatting in APA.
4. Articulate, diagnose, and evaluate neurological processes and abnormalities in the form of writing projects.

### Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Assignments of increasing levels of challenge;
2. Assessment quizzes for each chapter;
3. Writing assignment(s);
4. Group presentations;
5. Written in-class, closed-book examinations.

### Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize small group and individual work in class using laptop computers, inquiry learning, case studies, and homework assignments. The course makes use of the *Moodle* course management system.

### Required Texts and Materials

1. Kalat, J.W. (2013). *Biological Psychology*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cengage/Wadsworth.
2. Laptop Computer (bring to every class).

### Recommended Texts and Materials

1. *The APA Style Handbook*; 6<sup>th</sup> Edition

**Attendance**

Attendance for this class is mandatory as a large portion of your final grade involves you participating in class discussions and activities. Student will only be allotted two unplanned absences before deductions will be made. In the event of emergencies, please contact the instructor immediately so proper arrangements can be made.

**Class Requirements**

All students are expected to bring a laptop computer into every class period so they can fully interact with the instructional materials. All cell phones or other forms of electronic devices must be put on silent mode. Please refrain from texting, calling, or sending emails during class. Failure to meet this expectation will result in deductions in your participation grade and/or loss of points towards attendance. The instructor reserves the right to dismiss any student not fully engaged with the instructional conversation at any time.

**Prim Library Resources**

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

In this class, students will be required to submit a research paper that explores some references outside of the textbook. Students are expected to locate articles that are peer-reviewed, and apply those resources to create a central thesis. More information on the particulars of this assignment will be handed out in class, but students will be required to utilize resources provided by the Prim Library.

Prim Library Resources for PSYC 101 include, but are not limited to:

1. Reference materials
  - a. Such as the APA Style guide.
2. Books
3. Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles):  
Electronic databases most likely to include articles related to your term paper topics are EBSCO: Academic Search Premier, PSYCINFO.
4. Hardcopy periodicals: Prim Library has current subscriptions for Science, New Scientist, Science News, and National Geographic Magazine. Any of these are likely to have articles on your term paper topic.  
Full-text articles from many more periodicals are available through the electronic databases.

**Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism****The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

**Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at

the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

### Grading Policy

All students will be held accountable for ensuring that academic work is complete turned in by the proper deadline. **No late work will be accepted without proper approval.**

Students will be evaluated by the completion of in-class assignments, online quizzes, group presentations, written work and performance on in-class examinations. Each criterion will be discussed below.

#### *Quizzes*

At the start of each chapter, you will be required to take a pre-lecture quiz. The quiz will be 5 questions in length, and should only take you 10 minutes to complete. These quizzes will be designed to test your knowledge of the assigned reading. In other words, make sure you read before each class period. You will not be required to know and understand every detail of the chapter, but you should be familiar with main ideas and the terms that were discussed. Each of these quizzes will be worth 5 points. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped to allow for an unscheduled absence.

In addition, students will be required to take a 20 question online quiz following class discussion of the chapter. Quizzes will be due at 11:55pm on the Friday following the class discussion, but it is **STRONGLY** recommended that you take your quiz immediately after class. Each quiz will draw random test questions from a large test bank, so no two tests will be the same. Each quiz will be worth 20 points, and you will have 45 minutes. Your lowest individual quiz score will be dropped.

#### *Inter-teach Sessions*

During class periods, students will be given some time to complete an "Interteach Session". During these sessions, students will pair up in groups of 2 and complete a prepared study guide. I will be going from group to group throughout the class to clarify any questions that may have been brought up. Packets will be due by the end of class Wednesday. In addition, students will be asked to rate their satisfaction of their "Interteach Session" on a weekly basis. If sessions are unproductive or ineffective, a fully lecture based structure will be implemented, followed by a post-lecture quiz every section. Each interteach packet will be worth 10 points toward your final grade, with your lowest score dropped.

**DISCLAIMER:** In order to earn full points for these assignments, you must be in class. I will deduct points from both your participation and interteach grades if you exceed 2 absences this semester.

#### *Activities*

Each week, there will also be an activity that attempts to apply the current weeks content into a short demonstration. Each activity will have some sort of deliverable attached to it, which will be due at the culmination of the activity. Each activity will be worth 10 points toward your final grade. Your lowest activity score will be dropped.

**DISCLAIMER:** In order to earn any points on this assignment, you must be in class.

*Papers*

There will be 3 article summaries and a major research project due for this class. Article summaries will involve students finding peer reviewed articles using library resources to research topics discussed in class. Students will turn in the first page of the article, as well as a 3 page write up of what the article stated and how it relates to the science of neuropsychology. Each write up will be worth 50 points.

A major research project will be due at the end of the semester that will involve students exploring a particular topic discussed in the course. Students will be required to research the topic and provide at least 5 peer-reviewed references in their report. Final research project must be submitted in proper APA formatting and must be at least 12 pages long. More information on this topic, including grading rubric and recommended headings will be distributed in class. The major research project will be worth 100 points.

*Group Project*

Students will be required to complete a group project. Students will pair up in groups of 3 and present on a topic in the textbook for the class. This will require the preparation of a PowerPoint slideshow, lecture notes, and discussion questions. The presentation should last about 20 minutes and will be worth 80 points toward the final grade. More information on this project will be distributed in class.

*In-Class Tests*

Two in-class tests will be given in this course. Questions will be derived from both quizzes and “inter-teach sessions”, so there should be no surprises. The class before both tests, I will allow for a half-hour review session. These tests will be closed notes, so it is vital that you come to class and prepare as best you can. **Please be on time the day of the test. Students that are more than 10 minutes late will not be distributed an exam.**

The Midterm will cover Chapter 1-7. This test will be worth 50 points. The Final will cover Chapter 1-15 and will be worth 100 points.

*Grade Breakdown*

There are 1000 Points possible in this course. The breakdown of how this 1000 is computed is shown below:

- Pre-Lecture Quizzes 55 Points
  - 11 @ 5 pts each
- Chapter Quizzes 220 Points
  - 11 @ 20 pts each
- Interteach Packets 110 Points
  - 11 @ 10 points each
- Activities 110 Points
  - 11 @ 10 points each
- Mid-term 50 Points
- Final Exam 100 Points
- Article Summaries 150 Points
  - 3 @ 50 Points Each
- Research Project 100 Points
- Group Project 80 Points
- Participation 25 Points
- **TOTAL 1000 Points**

A	930-1000
A-	900-929
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
F	<599

**ADA Accommodations**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu), office in Prim Library: PL-304.

**Class Schedule**

Week	Topic	Due In Class	Inter teach due (Thursday by 11:55pm)	Online Quiz Due (Friday by 11:55pm)
1/19-1/23	Course Introduction CH 1: Major Issues		CH 1 Inter teach	CH 1 Quiz
1/26-1/30	Ch 2: Nerve Cells and Impulses		CH 2 Inter teach	Ch 2 Quiz
2/2-2/6	CH 3: Synapses	2/ 5- Article Summary # 1 Due	CH 3 Inter teach	Ch 3 Quiz
2/9-2/13	Ch 4: <i>Anatomy of the Nervous System</i>		CH 4 Inter teach	Ch 4 Quiz
2/16-2/20	CH 5: Development and Plasticity of the Brain	2/19- Article Summary # 2 Due	CH 5 Inter teach	Ch 5 Quiz
2/23-2/27	Ch 6: Vision		CH 6 Inter teach	CH 6 Quiz
3/2-3/6	CH 7: Other Sensory Systems		CH 7 Inter teach	CH 7 Quiz
3/9-3/13	3/10- Review for Midterm 3/12- Midterm			
3/16-3/20	Spring Break No Class			
3/23-3/27	Ch 8: Movement		CH 8 Inter teach	Ch 8 Quiz
3/30-4/3	Ch 9: <i>Wakefulness &amp; Sleep</i>	4/2- Major Research Paper Due	CH 9 Inter teach	Ch 9 Quiz
4/6-4/10	Ch 10: <i>Internal Regulation</i>		CH 10 Inter teach	Ch 10 Quiz
4/13-4/17	Ch 11: <i>Wakefulness &amp; Sleep</i>		CH 11 Inter teach	Ch 11 Quiz
4/20-4/24	Ch 12: Emotional Behaviors		CH 12 Inter teach	Ch 12 Quiz
4/27-5/1	Group Projects			
5/4-5/8	5/5- Final Review Session 5/7- Prep Day (No Class)			
	Final Exam Date and Time TBA			

**The SNC Email System**

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

**The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement:**

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

**The Core Themes:**

Liberal Arts	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

**Tips for Success**

This course was not designed for students to fail, but to rather come into full contact with the course materials to ensure success. My mission here is for you to learn. I'm not promising that I know everything there is to know (in fact, I'll probably learn more from you this semester), but I do promise you that if you do the work and you contact the course contingencies, you will do great. That being said, here are some of my tips for success:

- READ
- Keep all lines of communication open with me. I can't solve a problem I don't know about.
- Utilize campus resources
- READ
- Make friends/study partners
- Come to class prepared (ie. READ before coming)
- Make sure you're utilizing everything I give to you (slides, notes, guides, etc)
- Be accountable
- and most importantly, READ