

Psychology 330 (Sections 7, 8, 9)
Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience
Fall 2025

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(Email is the best way to reach me. If you put your class number and section number in the subject line of your email, you typically receive a response within 2-3 business days. If you don't put your class number and section number in the subject line of your email, it will take longer time to receive a response.)

Office hour: M. W. 2–3 pm in person at ASH 2204 or join the Zoom meeting at:

<https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/8780792192?pwd=L29XUEI3Z2ovMVNjZlV3U0pGcVp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 878 079 2192

Passcode: ntb909

Please click the following link to schedule your appointment for a time slot on M. W. 2–3 pm

<https://calendar.app.google/pRuxPLDFPe7RbEpD8>

Texts:

Required: Carlson, N. & Birkett, M. (2020). Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience (10th ed.), Pearson.

Course description:

This course will examine the physiological basis of behavior. Among topics to be covered are the following: the nervous system; and neural mechanisms involved in sensory and perceptual processes, motor control, sleep, language, and neurological and mental disorders. Lectures will focus on selected concepts and theories. Students will be responsible for all materials presented in the lectures as well as the textbook. Prereq. Psy 101.

Learning objectives:

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

Identify the structure and function of the major parts of the nervous system

Describe the process of action potentials

Describe the process of neurotransmission

Identify the behavioral function of major brain chemical systems

Discuss basic research in behavioral neuroscience

Discuss the neural basis of perception, movements, sleep, and language

Relate biological processes to everyday behavior

Course delivery/method of instruction:

This course is taught in a face-to-face format, with Blackboard used for quizzes and assignments. Quizzes must be taken in class, while assignments may be submitted either remotely or in class. PowerPoint slides of lectures (excluding diagrams/images due to Blackboard's limited capacity and copyright laws) and study guides can also be found on the course Blackboard. Although the course Blackboard contains video lectures from previous semesters for reference, **it is the students' responsibility to ensure they receive the most up-to-date materials in class for this semester.**

Course evaluation:

Exams and the Final Exam: There will be three within semester exams and a final exam. Each exam will be worth 50 points and the final exam 80 points. Exams and the final will consist of identification of brain structures, multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions. Multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions must be answered on the scantron sheet in order to receive any points for those questions. **Students are not allowed to use any external materials, such as books, notes, paper, any devices, during any exams.** In the final computation of your grade, the graded class participation 70 points described below will be included. The final grades will be based upon your percentage of total points (i.e., the number of points you earned divided by the total number of points possible, which is 300).

Missed exams and missed final exams: **Students must take exams as scheduled in this syllabus in person.**

Any within semester exam that any student cannot take as scheduled in this syllabus is considered as a missed

exam. Students with documentations that can substantiate legitimate reasons for missing a scheduled exam will either receive prorated points according to their performance on the final exam or take a different version of the exam consisting of essay questions that are typically given during the final exam week. You must notify me your decision to receive prorated points or to take a make-up exam consisting of essay questions, and turn in the documentations to me within a week of the missed exam. If I do not receive a written notification and documentations within a week of the missed exam, you will receive “0”. Students with legitimate reasons and documentations for missing the final exam as scheduled in the syllabus will take a different version of the final exam consisting of essay questions. Students without legitimate reasons for missing any scheduled exam or the scheduled final exam in this syllabus will receive “0”.

Graded class participation: Class participation including quizzes, assignments, and participation in-class will be worth 70 points. Quizzes and assignments will be given in the course blackboard, and are open-book and open-notes. Quizzes and assignments are intended to guide students towards important concepts or theories or key issues and help students prepare for exams, and the points resulted from quizzes and assignments that are open-book and open-notes are intended to increase students’ grade. This course focuses on learning the particular material. Students receive points from quizzes and assignments for demonstrating learning with the aid of books and notes. **Quizzes and assignments are open-book and open-notes, but they are graded.** Assignments may be submitted remotely or in class, and **students must submit assignment in the course blackboard in order to receive any points.** Assignment questions are available from the beginning of the semester and students can submit answers remotely any time before the due time. Thus, I do not accept late submissions regardless reasons. **Assignment submitted/emailed to me receives 0 point. Quizzes must be taken in class.** Students with legitimate reasons and documentations for missing a quiz will receive prorated points for the missed quiz based on their performance on the next quiz they take. You must turn in the documentations to me within a week of a missed quiz. Quizzes and assignments will be worth 50 points, while class attendance and participation—especially answering questions in class—will be worth 20 points. **Note:** No individual students will be given any opportunity to earn extra points. Any possible opportunity to earn extra points will be given in class.

Grading:

A:	= or > 93%	C+:	= or > 77 % to < 80 %
A-:	= or > 90 % to < 93 %	C:	= or > 73 % to < 77 %
B+:	= or > 87 % to < 90 %	C-:	= or > 70 % to < 73 %
B:	= or > 83 % to < 87 %	D+:	= or > 65 % to < 70 %
B-:	= or > 80 % to < 83 %	D:	= or > 60 % to < 65 %

Course Schedule: (Underlined dates are exam dates)

Date	Topic	Reading assignments
Aug. 25, 27, 29	Introduction and Neuron and neural communication	Chapters 1 & 2
Sept. 3, 5	Neuron and neural communication	Chapters 2 & 3
Sept. 8, 10, 12	Anatomy of the nervous system	Chapter 3
Sept. 15, 17, <u>19</u> (1-3)	Exam I	
Sept. 22, 24, 26	Drugs and behavior	Chapter 4
Sept. 29, Oct. 1, 3	Methods and strategies of research	Chapter 5
Oct. 6, 8, 10	Vision	Chapter 6
Oct. <u>13</u> (4-6), 15, 17	Exam II and Audition and somatosenses	Chapter 7
Oct. 19-21	Fall Break	
Oct. 22, 24	Motor control	Chapter 8
Oct. 27, 29, 31	Sleep and biological rhythms	Chapter 9

Nov. 3, 5, <u>7</u> (7-9)	Exam III	
Nov. 10, 12, 14	Language	Chapter 14
Nov. 17, 19, 21	Neurological disorders	Chapter 15
Nov. 24	Neurological disorders cont.	Chapter 15
Dec. 1, 3, 5	Mental disorders	Chapter 16

Final Exam (2, 3, 4, 14, 15, 16)

Section	Classroom	Class meeting time	Final exam time
7	ASH-1115	M. W. F. 12 – 12:50 pm	Wednesday, Dec. 10, 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm
8	ASH-2310	M. W. F. 1 – 1:50 pm	Monday, Dec. 8, 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm
9	ASH-2132	M. W. F. 11 - 11:50 am	Wednesday, Dec. 10, 10:00 am - 11:50 am

Drop deadline - grade of "W" - Fri., Nov. 7, 5 pm.

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>

Academic Integrity

Students will do original work and will not take or receive the efforts of another person on any test or assignment, use unauthorized resources on quizzes or tests, plagiarize, or give/sell other students papers or assignments *not authorized by the instructor*. ***You are responsible*** for not giving the appearance of cheating, such as wandering eyes or talking during exams. ***You are responsible*** for making yourself aware of and for understanding the policies and procedures that pertain to academic integrity. To that end, be sure to familiarize yourself with the GVSU Student Code related to academic integrity and [Integrity of Grades & Scholarship](#).

Disability

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me and Disability Support Resources (DSR) at (616) 331-2490. Furthermore, if you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency, please make me aware so that the university and I can develop a plan to assist you. It is the *student's responsibility* to request assistance from DSR.

Fire

Immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Do not use the elevators.